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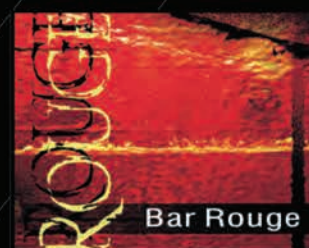
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Socceroos draw Saudi Arabia, Oman and Thailand

By Francis Fields

All eyes yesterday were firmly focused in Rio de Janeiro as FIFA hosted the World Cup 2014 qualifying draw.

Current World champion Spain was drawn with 1998 winner France, Georgia, Belarus and Finland in their qualifying group. For a South American nation the 2014 tournament will be the first World Cup in Brazil in 64 years. The draw in Rio de Janeiro determined the path of 166 teams in their bid to qualify for the tournament in three years' time.

It was the first major World Cup event in Brazil since the South American nation was awarded the competition in 2007. As host, Brazil is the only nation that doesn't have to qualify. "We are happy to be back in Brazil," FIFA President Sepp Blatter said.

The draw event was hosted by FIFA General Secretary Jerome Valcke along with Brazilian football legends Cafu, Neymar, Zico, Lucas, Bebeto, Felipe Bastos, Mario Zagallo, Lucas Piazon, Ronaldo and Ganso.

Socceroo coach Holger Osieck, who is in Colombia for the Under-20 World Cup, said the matches will not be easy and the task is to know Australia's opponents in order to be prepared for the campaign.

"Now we are aware of which teams we will be playing in qualification," said Osieck shortly after the draw was announced.

"Our first step is to collect all necessary information about our opponents so we are fully prepared for the matches.

"We will start our preparations when we get the team together in Wales for our friendly match and then it's just a short time before our first match against Thailand," concluded Osieck.

The Socceroos have been drawn with Saudi Arabia, Oman and Thailand in Group B of the third round of Asian qualifying. The



team is attempting to reach the tournament for a fourth time, and third in succession.

Australia plays its first pool match of the third round at home against Thailand on Sept. 2. before playing Saudi Arabia away on Sept. 6th.

Then on match day three, Australia host Oman in October, before away games against Oman and Thailand on Nov. 11 and Nov. 15 respectively.

Australia's final match of the third round of Asian qualifiers will be against Saudi Arabia at home on Feb. 29, 2012. The European draw saw England placed with 2012 European Championship co-hosts Ukraine and Poland in Group H. Italy will meet Denmark and the Czech Republic in Group B, while Germany faces Sweden, Austria and Ireland in Group C.

Spain and England were the final two teams to find out their qualifying opponents in the draw, and either one had a chance to end up in France's group.

Group I is the only one with five teams instead of six. Fifty-three European nations were divided into nine groups, with the winners automatically qualifying and the eight best group runners-up advancing to a playoff. The European

qualifying matches will begin Sept. 7 and end Oct. 15, 2013.

Italy also was likely to have a tough time in its group, which includes Bulgaria, Armenia and Malta.

The Netherlands, last year's runner-up in South Africa, was drawn in Group D with Turkey, Hungary and Romania, while Portugal will have to face Russia and Israel in Group F.

Group A has Croatia, Serbia, Belgium and Scotland. Greece will play Slovakia in Group G, while Norway was drawn in Group E with Slovenia and Switzerland. The United States in the CONCACAF region was drawn with Jamaica in qualifying. The other two teams in Group A will come from preliminary qualifying matches that include Haiti, Guatemala, the U.S. Virgin Islands and five other nations.

Mexico is in Group B with Costa Rica, while Cuba and Honduras are in Group C. All three group winners and runners-up will advance to a final qualifying round, beginning February 2013.

The 10 teams in the fourth round will be divided into two groups of five with the top two teams from each group qualifying for the 2014

World Cup in Brazil.

In Asia, the other groups see Japan faces underdog Uzbekistan, Syria and North Korea in group C. Iran, Bahrain and Qatar were drawn in the same Group E, along with Indonesia, while China is in Group A with Iraq, Jordan and Singapore.

The teams finishing third in each group from round four will play home-and-away in round five, with the winner earning a playoff tie against a team from the South American confederation to qualify for the finals.

New Zealand will have to navigate a longer qualifying route to reach the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, playing through Oceania rounds to reach a final-stage qualifier against an opponent from the CONCACAF confederation. The Oceania qualifying series for the 2014 World Cup in Brazil will be played over three rounds.

The second round tournament will be played in Fiji from June 1 to 12, 2012 and will involve Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Tahiti, Fiji, the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand and the first round winner.

The winner of that tournament - tipped to be Ricki Herbert's New

Zealand will represent the Oceania confederation at the 2013 Confederations Cup in Brazil.

The African teams were divided into 10 groups for qualifiers beginning in November. South Africa, last year's World Cup host, was drawn in Group A along with Botswana. Ghana, the best African team last year, is in Group D with Zambia and Sudan. Egypt has Guinea and Zimbabwe in Group G, while Cameroon faces Libya in Group I.

Morocco is pitted against Ivory Coast in Group C.

South America was not included in the draw because the continent's nine teams will be placed in a single group. They will play each other twice, home and away, with the top four finishers securing a World Cup spot. The fifth-place team will advance to an intercontinental playoff against a team from Asia. The other playoff will pit teams from CONCACAF and Oceania.

No doubt the CONMEBOL will be the toughest with the recent Copa America showing all teams very competitive and vying for an extra spot given Brazil will not participate in the qualification process. The World Cup will be played from June 12 to July 13, and the complete match schedule will be announced in October.

"We love football," Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff said at the draw. "Today, Brazil is admired for more than just football, music and its popular festivities. I invite you to come visit us. You will find a country very well prepared for the World Cup."

It was great to see Ronaldo, Neymar, Zico and Zagallo were among the current and past Brazilian players participating in the draw, which also had local artists such as singer Ivete Sangalo. More than 35 coaches and representatives from 104 national teams were in attendance. Legends Pelé and Michel Platini were also at Marina da Gloria harbor in Rio.



The Groups

ASIA - Round 2

Group A
China PR, Jordan, Iraq, Singapore

Group B
Korea Republic, Kuwait Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, Lebanon

Group C
Japan, Uzbekistan, Syria, Korea DPR

Group D
Australia, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Thailand

Group E
Iran, Qatar, Bahrain, Indonesia

A total of 4.5 spots are available for the 43 Asian teams. The 38 lowest-ranked teams will play two preliminary rounds in June and July 2011.

EUROPE - Round 1

Group A
Croatia, Serbia, Belgium, Scotland, FYR Macedonia, Wales

Group B
Italy, Denmark, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Armenia, Malta

Group C
Germany, Sweden, Republic of Ireland, Austria, Faroe Islands, Kazakhstan

Group D
Netherlands, Turkey, Hungary, Romania, Estonia, Andorra

Group E
Norway, Slovenia, Switzerland, Albania, Cyprus, Iceland

Group F
Portugal, Russia, Israel, Northern Ireland, Azerbaijan, Luxembourg

Group G
Greece, Slovakia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Lithuania, Latvia, Liechtenstein

Group H
England, Montenegro, Ukraine, Poland, Moldova, San Marino

Group I
Spain, France, Belarus, Georgia, Finland

All 53 European member associations will participate in the Preliminary Campaign for the 2014 FIFA World Cup. The qualifiers will consist of nine groups, beginning in September 2012 with 13 teams qualifying for the finals in Brazil.

NORTH, CENTRAL AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN - Round 2

Group A
El Salvador, Suriname, Cayman Islands, Dominican Republic

Group B
Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana, Barbados, Bermuda

Group C
Panama, Dominica, Nicaragua, Bahamas

Group D
Canada, St. Kitts and Nevis, Puerto Rico, St. Lucia

Group E
Grenada, Guatemala, St. Vincent / Grenadines, Belize

Group F
Haiti, Antigua and Barbuda, Curacao, US Virgin Islands

3.5 spots will be up for grabs for the region's 35 teams. The ten lowest ranked member associations will contest Round 1 in June and July 2011.

OCEANIA - Round 2

Group A
Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Winner Round One, Tahiti

Group B
Fiji, New Zealand, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea

Eleven teams will battle it out for the right to play-off for a place at the 2014 FIFA World Cup. The four lowest ranked teams will contest Round One in November 2011.

South America Group Matches

Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela

With Brazil automatically qualified as hosts, the remaining nine member associations will play each other on a home and away basis for 4.5 spots between October 2011 and September 2013.

The Preliminary Draw in quotes

"Massive fan of all three countries and I respect them a lot, [it's] going to be tough. Football in Asia is growing rapidly." **Tim Cahill, Australia midfielder**

"Without any doubt, Germany is the top candidate for the No1 spot. On paper, Sweden and Ireland should be considered ahead of us. But our task is doable." **Dietmar Constantini, Austria coach**

"It will be so wonderful for our people to be able to welcome two of the biggest giants of the football world - the current champions, Spain, and the champions of 1998, France." **Bernd Stange, Belarus coach**

"It's a very well balanced group and there's no doubt that it will be very difficult. But we have to believe in our chances." **Georges Leekens, Belgium coach**

"We respect every opponent in our group and will take the challenge. I have seen much easier groups in Europe today. But one thing is clear: Italy are the favourites." **Lothar Matthaus, Bulgaria coach**

"The European groups are quite tight and although what catches the eye is France and Spain drawn together, I believe that Italy's group is even closer; a more even one." **Mano Menezes, Brazil coach**

"I think it's a decent draw. The main thing is you have to take care of business at home and if you get results (on the road), you should be okay." **Stephen Hart, Canada coach**

"The draw is not too bad for us - at least it is better than what Japan have received! All four teams, however, are close rivals and the competition will be ferocious." **Li Xiaopeng, former China PR midfielder**

"Ukraine and Montenegro are going to be tough. If we can beat Montenegro in our EURO group, that would be important for the confidence of the team." **Fabio Capello, England coach**

"It's to be expected that we drew a big fish as we were not seeded. It's a difficult group, but I hope anyway the best two will go through." **Laurent Blanc, France coach**

"We are satisfied. It's not an easy group, but we are happy that we do not have to face France. Of course, we are the favourites, but we still have to go into each match concentrated and focused." **Oliver Bierhoff, Germany team manager**

"It's a good group for us, Jordan can reach the final round for the first time in its history." **Adnan Hamad, Jordan coach**

"It's always difficult for us, whatever our group is. But this is a very interesting draw and to finish lower than fourth would be a disappointment." **Paul Phillip, Luxembourg Football Federation President**

"It's a fair group for us because we will fight for the second position behind England, who are clearly favourites." **Zlatko Kranjcar, Montenegro coach**

"This is a very tough group, but we are ready for the challenge. Good luck to all the Arab and Gulf teams." **Ali Al Habsi, Oman goalkeeper**

"It is a difficult section with three genuine football nations in Turkey, Hungary and Romania. Those will be our main rivals, with Turkey being the biggest threat." **Bert van Marwijk, Netherlands coach**

"It looks a reasonably tough group, but it could have been worse. There is a fair bit of travelling but you have to deal with that." **Nigel Worthington, Northern Ireland coach**

"We are not favourites; Russia has a lot of individual talent and Israel has shown it can be a big danger for any big team." **Paulo Bento, Portugal coach**

"It is a tough task, so we will make sure to prepare properly. We will spend some time in Qatar and then we will have a ten-day stint in Turkey." **Milovan Rajevac, Qatar coach**

"I don't have any special feeling today, it will not be easy for sure but I can't be happy or unhappy. Anything is possible." **Dick Advocaat, Russia coach**

"In Serbia and Croatia we have drawn two very accomplished teams and all of these games will provide a very tough challenge for my squad." **Craig Levein, Scotland coach**

"I remember Scotland as a team with very good qualities in the past. Belgium will be very difficult too, although I think Croatia - as the

top-seeded team - must start as favourites." **Vladimir Petrovic, Serbia coach**

"I can't see a clear favourite. We can beat anybody, we have proven that in the past." **Matjaz Kek, Slovenia coach**

"For sure it's kind of a good group for us. I'm sure the other teams are not happy to have us in the group. It will be hard, though." **Pitso Mosimane, South Africa coach**

"If you concentrate too much on France, you can fail against any other opponent, and complicate your qualification in the same way." **Vicente del Bosque, Spain coach**

"Republic of Ireland will be tough, I expect a big fight with them, but there is no doubt that Germany are the favourites." **Erik Hamren, Sweden coach**

"I'm very confident. Our team is in a renovation process, in a year will have more experience and we could be able to fight the Dutch for first place in the group." **Guus Hiddink, Turkey coach**

"Japan are undisputedly the strongest team in this group but every team has a chance. The fixtures look tight and all six games will be played in six months, so there's no room for error." **Vadim Abramov, Uzbekistan coach**

"It's one of those groups when you look at it that everyone can beat anyone. It's a really tough group, but it could have been worse." **Gary Speed, Wales coach**

The Groups

AFRICA - Round 1 Matches

1 Seychelles v Kenya; 2 Guinea-Bissau v Togo; 3 Djibouti v Namibia; 4 Mauritius v Liberia; 5 Comoros v Mozambique; 6 Equatorial Guinea v Madagascar; 7 Somalia v Ethiopia; 8 Lesotho v Burundi; 9 Eritrea v Rwanda; 10 Swaziland v Congo DR; 11 Sao Tome e Principe v Congo; 12 Chad v Tanzania

Round 2

Group A
South Africa, Botswana, Central African Republic, Winner 7

Group B
Tunisia, Cape Verde Islands, Sierra Leone, Winner 6

Group C
Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco, Gambia, Winner 12

Group D
Ghana, Zambia, Sudan, Winner 8

Group E
Burkina Faso, Gabon, Niger, Winner 11

Group F
Nigeria, Malawi, Winner 1, Winner 3

Group G
Egypt, Guinea, Zimbabwe, Winner 5

Group H
Algeria, Mali, Benin, Winner 9

Group I
Cameroon, Libya, Winner 2, Winner 10

Group J
Senegal, Uganda, Angola, Winner 4

The ten group winners from Round Two will contest Round Three. The ten teams will be paired into five home-and-away series. The matches are foreseen to be played in the periods 11-15 October and 15-19 November 2013.

Copa America Champions 2011

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Dale Campeon Uruguay!



Luis Suarez and Diego Forlan have victory in their sight



Luis Suarez packed plenty of punch in the tournament.



La Celeste celebrate in Buenos Aires.



Diego Forlan delivers the goods on the big occassion.

Courtesy SoccerWay

Uruguay won their first Copa America crown since 1995 last Sunday after a comprehensive 3-0 win over Paraguay in Buenos Aires.

Uruguay, the 2010 World Cup semi-finalists, hit Gerardo Martino's Paraguay with two goals in the first half at the Estadio Monumental Antonio Vespucio Liberti, courtesy of strikers Luis Suarez and Diego Forlan.

Atletico Madrid man Forlan completed his brace moments before the final whistle as Uruguay sealed a record 15th success in the South American continental competition.

Oscar Tabarez's side made their intentions known right from the start, as Suarez went close with a shot from inside the six-yard box.

Controversy ensued moments later when Diego Lugano powered a header from inside the penalty area and Nestor Ortigoza appeared to stop the ball with his hand, drawing strong penalty appeals from Uruguay.

They were denied a certain spot kick by referee Salvio Spinola Fagundes Filho?, but in the 11th minute, Uruguay had their opener.

Liverpool's Suarez made his way down the right flank and unleashed a stinging shot, which deflected off Dario Veron and over the line.

Uruguay had a chance to make it 2-0 near the half-hour mark when Suarez released Forlan with an excellent through-ball, only to be denied by Justo Villar.

Minutes before half-time Uruguay did double their lead.

Egidio Arevalo stole the ball in midfield, and found an unmarked Forlan, who made no mistake this time as he powered a scintillating finish in the right corner of the net.

It could have been 3-0 in the 55th minute, when Suarez threaded a pass for Forlan near the penalty spot, but Veron made a vital interception and deflected the ball out of danger.

Paraguay enjoyed their best chance shortly before the hour mark, when Nelson Valdez powered a shot against the bar from outside the box.

The Hercules forward had another opportunity moments later when Cristian Riveros found him with a good ball from the right wing, but the Valdez failed to convert from close range.

Uruguay kept pushing for a third, with substitute Edison Cavani forcing a spectacular save from Villar with 11 remaining.

It was left for Forlan to put the finishing touches on a deserved victory, completing his brace with a cool finish in injury time, following a pass from Suarez.



Uruguay makes it a record breaking 15th Copa America title.



Forlan burries it to make it 2-0



Oscar Tabarez soaks up the triumph



Suarez 's shot goes in off the post to open the scoring



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21st KANGA CUP IS AN UNMITIGATED SUCCESS

By Russ Gibbs

The 21st Kanga Cup, held in Canberra from the 10th-15th July 2011, attracted a record number of teams to the tournament with 231 entrants descending on the Capital City in an attempt to prove that they were the best team in the land in their particular age group.

As usual there were teams from every state and territory in Australia, apart from Western Australia who did provide referee's for the competition. The entry list even extended as far as Asia with four teams making the trip overseas, two from the Republic of Korea and one each from Malaysia and the Philippines.

Included amongst this number was PoCheolDong PS, the youth feeder team to the ultra-successful and former AFC Champions League winners Pohang Steelers and SinGok PS, regular visitors to the Kanga Cup with this being their sixth entry. Both teams lit up the tournament on the field, claiming their age titles despite playing above their age-range, and

did the same off the field thanks to their liaison with host clubs Monaro Panthers and Gungahlin United respectively.

PoCheolDong PS, fielding eleven-year-old players in the Boy's under-13 Cup competition, was simply far too well organised and talented for the rest of the field and ran away with the trophy after seeing off Light United from Victoria 2-0 in what was a fairly one-sided final. Their Korean counterparts, SinGok PS, were also playing eleven-year-olds in the under-12 Cup but it mattered little as they dismantled a talented Adelaide City 7-2 in the Cup Final.

The other overseas entrants also fared reasonably well. Subang Jaya from Malaysia reached the Grand Final of the under-16 Boy's Plate competition but was defeated by Wakehurst Bengals (VIC) 2-0 at Deakin Stadium home of ACT Rock Premier League giants Canberra FC. Pilipinas RIFA (Philippines) won many friends with their exciting style of play and there was also the good news story of Coastal Spirit from Christchurch in New Zealand who

overcame the adversity of the earthquakes in their home town to send a team in the Boy's under-13 competition with some financial help from local Canberra businesses.

Alongside the Wakehurst success there was another Victorian representative taking home silverware as Peninsula Strikers win a thriller against local ACT team Queanbeyan City in the Boy's under-10 Shield Final taking the match by the odd-goal in seven.

There were titles for Tasmania and Queensland to celebrate also at the end of the week with Tilford Zebras from Hobart winning the Boy's under-13 plate in an epic 4-3 win over Mindil Aces, the first team to enter from the Northern Territory, joining Northern Tasmania who won the Girl's' under-16 Cup with a 5-4 win on penalties against Canberra Olympic (ACT) after the match had ended all square at 2-2. From the sunshine state Whitsunday JSA took out the Boy's under-14 plate seeing off their NSW rivals Highlands FC 4-1 in a cracking Grand Final.

As usual there was a splattering of winners from inside the boundaries of the Australian Capital Territory itself with congratulations being merited to seven local sides namely, Bel-south Fury (Boy's under-10 Plate), Belnorth (Girl's under-10/11 Cup), Majura Dodgers (Boy's under-12 Plate), Majura Mini Matildas (Girl's under-12 Cup), Belconnen United (Boy's under-15 Plate), Canberra City (Boy's under-16 Cup) and Gungahlin Suns (Girl's under-18 Cup).

The remaining ten titles all went North of the border to some outstanding teams from New South Wales including West Pymble Eagles (Boy's under-10 Cup), Fairfield Hotspurs (who did the double of Boy's under-11 Cup and Boy's under-14 Cup), the Bangalow Blue Dogs (Boy's under-15 Cup) and Colo Cougars (who mirrored Fairfield in claiming two crowns in the Boy's under-18 Cup and Girl's under-14/15 Cup).

Regional NSW was well-represented throughout the week and when Dubbo Devils kept their nerve to win a heart-stopping penalty shoot-out against Northbridge FC in the Boy's

under-11 Plate they also had a trophy to take home.

Outside of the football there were, of course, plenty of other attractions to keep the participants happy. Visits to many of Canberra's World-Class tourist attractions, including the Australian War Memorial and Questacon, invigorated the minds of player's when their bodies were in need of rest and a trip to the Cinema, courtesy of discounted tickets from, Dendy, was well received.

It wasn't just the youngsters who had other things to occupy their mind with a Coaching Seminar on a cold Wednesday evenings enticing over 100 coaches from the participating teams to brave the freezing weather and watch a demonstration of finishing drills put on by Capital Football's technical Department alongside the coaching staff from Hyundai A-League Grand Finalists Central Coast Mariners.

The Mariners were in town as part of their build-up to the new Hyundai A-League season and played pre-season friendly matches against

local Rock Premier League sides Belconnen United and Canberra FC with admission free for all Kanga Cup participants. The Mariners also attended a 'Meet and Greet' with the young Kanga Cup teams at the University of Canberra Hub, from where tournament merchandise could be purchased, and Kaleen Playing Fields. Signing autographs, giving away free posters and posing for photographs was certainly an extra treat for these football-mad youngsters!

Of course an event such as this couldn't go ahead without the valued support of the tournament sponsors, the exceptional work of the organising committee led by Tournament Director Adam Castle, the volunteers who gave up their time to help out around the grounds and the parents and managers of all teams who made dreams come true for thousands of budding footballers in a wonderful week of fun and friendship. After all, that's what the Kanga Cup has always been about.

Photos: Courtesy Capital Football



Korea's SinGok PS beats Adelaide City 7-2 in the B12 Final.



Under 13 winners Korea's PoCheolDong PS.



KANGA CUP CHAMPIONS

Under 16C champs Canberra City



Under 16 champs Wakehurst Bengals

KANGA CUP CHAMPIONS



See you all again next year!



KANGA CUP CHAMPIONS

Under 18 Colo Cougars



Congratulations to all the participants at Australia's Number 1 Football Festival.



Balkan Wrap



Alex Milic

Serbia

Partizan Belgrade scored a valuable away goal against Belgian Champions Genk in the first leg of their Champions League Qualifier in which Genk came from behind to win 2:1.

The ‘Black and Whites’ had more of the ball throughout the match but were restricted to long balls and wing play. Genk went down to 10 men after only 20 minutes but Partizan failed to capitalise as they also lost a player at the start of the second half as Stefan Babovic was sent off for a late challenge which Partizan manager Aleksandar Stanojevic says was the turning point in the match. Substitute Nenad Tomic scored within minutes of his introduction following a great run by new Brazilian signing Eduardo who had his shot parried away into the path of Tomic who had an open goal at his mercy. Only four minutes later Genk levelled the score from the penalty spot as Tomic had made a foul on Vossen who converted the spot kick with

Euro Wrap



Alex Luttrell

With the seasons of many of the major European football leagues preparing for their 2011/2012 seasons, some of Europe’s top clubs have fought it out in some intense friendly tournaments recently.

The Emirates Cup kicked off last night between four sides around the world. Arsenal hosted Boca Juniors in the Emirates Cup. After going 2-2 up in the first hour, the Gunners threw away their lead as Boca came back to seal a draw. A goal each from Robin van Persie and Aaron Ramsey looked enough but the Brazilian side never gave up hope.

In the other match of the cup, New York Red Bulls overcame Paris Saint-Germain 1-0. There are still the two respective matches to be played to determine the victor in the group stage style tournament, with the first placed team winning. Thierry Henry will play his former club Arsenal as a NY Red Bull later this week.

The first matches of the Dublin Super Cup, a festival between Inter Milan, Celtic, Manchester City and the Airticity XI, also took place last night.

Inter Milan travelled to Scotland and after a promising goal from Castaignos in the 7th, Inter’s Thiago Motta was send off in the 43rd. Nonetheless, Inter scored two minutes later through Giampaolo Pazzini which turned out to be the sealer as a ten-men Inter held off a determined Celtic.

In the other match Manchester City demolished Airticity League

Partizan and Dinamo’s winning Euro start



Action from Hajduk v Barcelona during the week.

out any problems. Partizan failed to produce any good attacks and this would cost them the match as a very poor Genk scored a second in stoppage time to take a slender lead into the 2nd leg in Belgrade where Partizan must improve if they want to play in Europe’s elite competition.

“I expect a full stadium in Belgrade and that the fans will lead us to victory and the next round of Qualifiers but it will be very tough for us as Genk is a quality side. We have to be aware and play our game if we are to win. I believe the fans will support us as every goal in this

competition is golden.” Partizan Manager Stanojevic said.

Red Star will take on Latvian side Ventspils in the last qualifying round of the Europa League. The ‘red and whites’ believe they have what it takes to get past the Latvians and are very confident of a good result in both matches. Manager Robert Prosinecki is also confident of a good result and expects his players to give it their all in the two legs. Prosinecki’s pre-season training sessions have been compared to army like training which he and the players have endured during the last month.

The Serbian Under 19s will take on the Czech Republic in the Semi-Finals of the UEFA U19 Championships in Romania. Dejan Govedarica’s men started the competition with an impressive 2:0 win over co tournament favourites Turkey but followed that win with a humiliating 4:0 defeat to tournament favourites Spain. In the last match a draw would take Serbia into the Semi-Finals and they did just that against Belgium playing out a 1:1 draw. The Czech Republic is yet to lose a match in the tournament so a very tough encounter is expected for Goverdarica’s team. The sides best play so far has been Rad youngster Andrej Mrkela whose father played for Red Star in the 1980s.

Croatia

Dinamo Zagreb will take a 2:1 lead to the Maksimir Stadium following its first leg win over Finnish Champions HJK Helsinki in the Champions League Qualifiers.

Dinamo went down early on but the scores were level thanks to an own goal. Despite Dinamo’s poor showing they managed to score one more as Sammir finished off a fine play which included captain Milan Badelj and Ante Rukovina. “I’m delighted! The win was our

goal. We came here to win and we did just that. We didn’t underestimate our rivals but at times we lacked pace and real good actions. I can be happy with some segments of our game but a little less on others. We will analyse the match and hopefully correct our mistakes. We started a little nervous and conceded a goal but the equaliser gave us some confidence and thankfully we scored a second. Nothing is over yet but to be honest we are close to the next round. There is no time to relax and we will work just as hard for the second leg in front of a packed Maksimir once more I hope.” Dinamo Manager Kruno Jurcic said.

Hajduk will face English side Stoke in the Europa League. The ‘whites’ from Split played a spectacular mid-week friendly against Champions League winners Barcelona in front of a packed Poljud Stadion which ended goalless. The match will surely be a motivator for the 2 legs against Stoke in which Hajduk is the clear outsider but the Split faithful can be happy with the pre-season Krasimir Balakov’s men are having. Australian youngster Steven Lustica came on in the second half for Hajduk against Barcelona while Ljubo Milicevic was absent due to injury.

Glasgow Rangers secure first win of the season



Steven Naismith heads Rangers into the lead against St Johnstone.

XI 3-0 in their opening match of the cup. A goal each to Shaun Wright-Phillips, Adam Johnson and Luca Scapuzzi were enough for a comfortable win.

Overnight the final of the Premier League Asia Cup was held between Chelsea and Aston Villa. A goal after 35 seconds from Josh McEachran and a second from substitute Fernando Torres was enough to give the Blues the edge over the Premier League counterparts.

Chelsea made the final after trouncing Hong Kong champs Kitchee 4-0 in their opening game semi final and a Darren Bent goal was enough for Villa to overcome Blackburn for a final spot. Blackburn overcame Kitchee 3-0 for a third spot place.

In other noteworthy friendlies over the past week, Tottenham overcame Brighton 3-2 at Amex Stadium in a tense tug-of-war through goals by Younes Kaboul, Kazenga LuaLua and Jake Liver-

more winner.

Manchester United and Liverpool have also hosted their fair share of pre-season friendly action. United are in touring the U.S. and have played four games thus far, with a 4-1 win over New England Revolution, a 7-0 thumping of the Seattle Sounders, a 3-1 win over Chicago Fire and most recently a 4-0 demolition of David Beckham’s MLS All-Stars.

In the final match of the tour, held on Sunday morning, Manchester United played host to Barcelona at FedEx field in Washington DC. This time, United came out triumphant with a 2-1 thanks to goals from Nani and Michael Owen. The win makes up for the Champions League Final and made it five wins from five friendlies in United’s tour of the States.

Liverpool’s preparation for the new season has not all gone to plan with four matches being played. Despite a successful tour of Asia which saw a 6-3 win over

Malaysia XI and a 4-3 win over Guangdong Sunray Cave. The side has had much less luck elsewhere, in their only other two friendlies with a 3-0 upset loss at the hands of Hull, and in Turkey, losing to Galataasaray 3-0 with Milan Baros scoring against his old club.

Belgian First Division

Reigning champions Genk kicked off their defence of the Belgian First Division title with a 3-1 win over Beerschot on Saturday.

An own-goal from Beerschot’s Croatian defender Tomislav Mikulic gifted hosts Genk a 1-0 lead 20 minutes into the match at the Cristal Arena.

Israel forward Elyaniv Barda then doubled the lead on 32 minutes, and just three minutes later David Hubert netted to make it 3-0, effectively ending the match as a contest with 55 minutes still remaining.

Uruguayan Gary Kagelmacher pulled one back for the visitors from the penalty spot with 15 minutes to go, but it proved no more than a consolation.

Also on Saturday, Mechelen joined Genk on three points following a 2-1 win at home to Sint-Truiden.

Elsewhere, Lokeren were held 0-0 at home by Zulte-Waregem

Scottish Premier League

Rangers have bounced back from their opening day draw with a 2-0 win over St Johnstone in the Scottish Premier League on Saturday.

The champions struck once in each half to take all three points from McDiarmid Park after drawing 1-1 at home to Hearts last weekend.

Forward Steven Naismith opened the scoring after 31 minutes as he headed in a well-delivered free-kick from Lee Wallace.

The hosts were in the game until five minutes into the second half when Croatia international Nikica Jelavic made it 2-0.

In other games, Nigel Hasselbaink’s first goal for Aberdeen helped them to a 1-0 win over St Mirren.

The striker scored what proved to be the winner five minutes after the interval, his first goal since joining from Hamilton Academical.

Hibernian left it late and were fortunate to record a 1-0 win over Inverness CT.

Striker Garry O’Connor scuffed a shot at goal in added time and Inverness goalkeeper Ryan Esson, who had enjoyed a superb match, fumbled the effort over the line.

In the day’s other game, Motherwell remain on top after playing out a 0-0 draw with Kilmarnock.

Viva

Espana



Pepe Lopez

City Signs Aguero

The transfer saga of Sergio “Kun” Aguero is finally over after 2 months of wheeling and dealing.

Aguero’s web-site reads; “Thank you all. There will be nothing and no-one who can tarnish my experience spent at Atletico...”

“I leave Atletico in pain. On May 23rd I said I would be leaving. I had five very intense years at the club but I felt that stage had ended.

I needed a change. I felt I would have betrayed my desire to continue to grow as a player if I remained at Atletico.”

“I am now a City player. I’m happy to be at this club and in this city. Thanks everyone for the welcome and the reception!”

Atletico Madrid have now cashed in on 45 Million Euro from the transfer, and have just 3 weeks before the start of the 2011-2012 La Liga season to spend up.

In fact, no time is being wasted. All images of Aguero have already been removed from the Atletico Madrid souvenir store at the stadium, and new players have been lined up. The first big spend would appear to be the signature of Brazilian Diego Ribas, a playmaker from German club Wolfsburg.

Atleti are trying to secure the wayward Brazilian for a cut down price of just 5 Million Euro, a player who just two years ago signed for Juventus for 24 Million Euro.

Ribas was quoted as saying; “We have had contact with other clubs, but Atletico is a concrete option. I don’t want to be at Wolfsburg any longer.”

Meanwhile, Atletico Madrid’s opening round fixture Real Sociedad is set to a spicy encounter, as another Atleti transfer target is Sociedad’s Antoine Griezmann. The French winger has been in contact with Atletico and discussed a possible move; “Atletico are a great club, very popular. I want to grow alongside players like Diego Forlan and Diego Costa.”

Speaking of which, with Diego Costa out for the first 6 months of the new La Liga season with a knee injury, and Sergio Aguero’s departure to Manchester City, Uruguayan striker Diego Forlan’s immediate future remains in Madrid, having just taken out Copa America honours with his national team Uruguay; “My grandfather won it, my father won it and now I’ve won it,” Diego Forlan stated. “It’s an honour for my family.

“We’re happy for all of Uruguay, for all the people. And now, to celebrate!”

In other news, Arsenal’s Cesc Fabregas’ future appears to lie on the status of Arsenal’s bid for Valencia’s Juan Mata. Mata would be a direct replacement for Fabregas, whose desire is to return to Barcelona.

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Maycon to battle for Melbourne Heart

By Matt Galea

Last Tuesday, Melbourne Heart announced their fifth signing of the offseason at their Bundoora training base at La Trobe University when Brazilian striker Maycon Carvalho Inez, or simply Maycon, was introduced to members of the press.

Described as a “typical 18 yard striker” by his new manager, John van’t Schip, Maycon is the Heart’s third Brazilian player on the playing roster, in what could be said to be another emphatic statement from the Heart about their ambitions to provide the fans with high quality, entertaining, attacking football. John van’t Schip highlighted Maycon’s mobility as one of his key assets, meaning he

easily fits into the Heart’s fluid attack, joining the likes of fellow new boys David Williams, Mate Dungandzic and first season stars Alex Terra, Rugter Worm and Adrian Zahra. Mr. van’t Schip stated that a lot of research went into the signing of Maycon, whom he had followed since last season, to ensure that he was the right player for the club, with particular attention to the number of games Maycon had played over the last few seasons, in hope of avoiding problems with fitness such as those experienced with Alex Terra in the club’s debut season. Maycon comes to Australia having played in the prestigious Rio de Janeiro State Championship with his old club, Nova Iguacu, where he played against some very strong sides in the form of

Fluminense, Vasco de Gama and Flamengo. Maycon scored six goals throughout the competition, putting him in good stead for a good campaign with Melbourne Heart. John van’t Schip highlighted the fact that Maycon had to work hard at his old club, and believes that this background will make Maycon well suited to football in Australia. Of course, van’t Schip was also quick to point out that the pre-season would be pivotal in ensuring that Maycon was prepared for the upcoming season, not just physically, but mentally too: “The only thing is, we still have to see how he will adjust.” “The good thing is, we still have a few months till we play the first game, so hopefully he will feel at home here. With Alex and Fred coming, I

think that will help him a lot and of course we will be there to help him a lot.” Maycon, who spoke through an interpreter, was delighted to have sealed a move to Melbourne Heart, a move which he felt he had to make to improve himself as a footballer: “I watched a few matches and the style of football is very similar to mine, so I had a chat to my family and decided that it was important for me to leave Brazil and play abroad, and Australia seemed a great place to go.” The presence of Fred and Terra at the club undoubtedly made Maycon’s decision to leave his homeland for Melbourne earlier, confirming that he had spoken to Terra prior to arriving in Melbourne. The good words spoken about Melbourne were of great encouragement to



Maycon, who hails from São Fidélis in Rio de Janeiro, who sees the move as an important part of his continuing football education: “I hope to play well here and stay here as long as I can. Of course, the dream of every player is to play for a big club in Europe, so maybe I will go to Europe in the future.” Maycon agreed with his manager’s assessment of his work

ethic, underlining his commitment to giving the Heart his all on the pitch, particularly when the big Melbourne derby rolls around in round three: “I am aware of the rivalry [between Heart and Victory] and I am going to prepare myself and train hard, but not just for this game but for all the other games.”



BOO'S WORLD

A look at the lighter side of football.



With Mark Boric

So the World Cup draw is out and Australia’s group in the First Round of qualifying includes Oman, Saudi Arabia and Thailand. Pim Verbeek would have already been parking buses in Oman and Saudi Arabia by now, but I don’t think Holger Siesiek will be too perturbed. I see the Yanks are going down the Aussie path in appointing a German as their national coach after appointing Jurgen Klinsmann to replace Bob Bradley. They must pay no attention to Craig Foster as well. Should the VTC Football be given a free-pass into the VPL Finals? Make it a Top Six series and include the currently bottom of the league VTC. Playing in the AVPL hasn’t done enough for their development looking at the results, surely playing against the best in a Finals atmosphere would be a good mover? It would only be slight increase in the mockery they have made of the competition already. Harry Kewell is still club-less. He’s leaving his decision late, but it’s a good ploy if he’s trying to avoid doing pre-season training. Werribee City have signed Craig Moore for a guest stint, hoping to reunite former Socceroos Moore, Danny Tiatto and Joe Spiteri in the same line-up. If only they could have secured Frank Farina as coach instead of Nino Ragusa, they could have pushed for the record bar (and canteen) takings at a single FFV State League game, whether any spectators turned up or not. The FFV have launched the Pelada Cup for next season, a knock-out Cup competition for women’s teams. It was not announced if Melbourne Victory’s women’s team will be competing, or indeed if they will announce they are competing before withdrawing before they are scheduled to join in. El-Hadji Diouf has found himself banned from playing for Senegal for five years after attempting to be a whistleblower like Jesse Fink. Having commented “the whole system of African football is

corrupt” on Radio France International he was banned after failing to front a Senegal Football Federation hearing regarding the claims. This of course, may be a smoke-screen for the real reason i.e. displaying ridiculous haircuts on the world stage. Great to see FIFA justice in action. Mohamed Bin Hamman was quickly banned for life by their ethics committee after being found guilty of bribery. A longer, more widespread investigation into the alleged corruption would have been more appropriate rather than this quick sweep under the carpet. If the Qatari, found guilty of trying to by votes in FIFA’s presidential election, is guilty then surely his role in bringing the World Cup Finals to Qatar requires further investigation? Or are people concerned they would have to pay their bribe money back if the Cup is taken away from Qatar? Melbourne Victory planning to play friendlies against Northcote City and Bentleigh Greens at Olympic Park behind closed doors doesn’t seem like a great way of engaging supporters. Or have they been punished by the FFV for something we don’t know about? Actually that can’t be the case, they are not affiliated with the FFV. Imagine the fines if they were...



Klinsmann takes the USA team for some training...

SHORT PASSES

ASPIRING YOUNG REDS OFF TO WEIFANG CUP

A crop of young South Australian football talent will represent Adelaide United FC at the highly reputable youth tournament, the Weifang Cup. Taking place from July 31 – August 7 in China’s Weifang Shandong province, the Weifang Cup 2011 International Youth Football Tournament will feature eight youth teams from around the world, which for the first time includes a squad from Adelaide United. The seven other teams joining the Reds in the tournament for players 18 years and younger are Spanish club Villarreal, the Chinese National Youth Team, the Indian National Youth Team, Portugal’s Benfica, Chivas Guadalajara from Mexico, China’s Shandong and High School United from Korea Republic.

LOCAL YOUNGSTERS TO GET A SHOT AT THE BIG TIME

TWO-TIME title-winning coach, Mike Mulvey, will open the door to local youngsters as he begins compiling his squad for what he plans to be a third National Youth League (NYL) championship in three seasons. Gold Coast United’s youth mentor will offer trials to two recommended under-20 players from every club in the region as he looks to unearth a hidden gem in the local ranks. Foundation youth players, Josh Brilante, Ben Halloran, Chris Harold and Zac Anderson, were all rewarded with senior contracts, leaving both vacancies and opportunities in Mulvey’s new-look squad for the 2011/12 NYL season.

GAMEIRO REPLACES LECKIE

Football Federation Australia (FFA) is pleased to announce that they have recently received confirmation from FIFA that the Qantas Young Socceroos are able to replace Mathew Leckie with Corey Gameiro for the FIFA U-20 World Cup which begins in Colombia today.



KATSA'S KORNER

Resident hack with a career spanning over 700 Games (685 in the Provisional League Reserves) and 15 senior cameo appearances.

With George Katsamboukas

The penultimate round of the VPL has come and gone, and down to the wire it will go as to which Teams will be playing Finals Football, as the last spot is being eyed of by a number of teams. The surprise package though is Richmond who at one stage, had their etags topped up to make the lonely trek to the Westgate, however they have stringed together a number of wins to have them knocking on the door for the top five. I’m sure that Boo and co would be more than happy with my non appearance at their matches, seems that they always lose when I attend. Down the Leagues we go where State 1 seems to be a race in 3 as to who will gain the Happy End Ticket to the VPL. with Port Melbourne, Whittlesea and Southern Stars commanding a huge lead from teh rest of the Pack. State 2 North West is still open for grabs, with a number of Teams still in the hunt to claim top spot. Werribee City have certainly splashed this year with a number of ex NSL and Socceroos players signing for them, the latest being Craig Moore who it appears will be doing a guest stint there. In State 2 South East, Dandenong City after their win on the weekend against Malvern City, seem to have the League title sown up, as they now command an 8 point gap between them and second spot, with 6 Rounds to play. Same scenario in State 3 North West where Keilor park, who have been up and down more times than a Bride’s Nighty, have broken away from second spot by 8 points, whilst State 3 South East is a race in 3 with Mornington, Kingston City and Old Scotch eyeing of the top two spots.

Over to the UK we go where in the Land of “Ferry ‘Cross the Mersey”, news in overnight indicates that Liverpool captain, Steven Gerrard could miss up to eight weeks as his groin has been become infected after recent Surgery. This is a common injury also suffered by a number of Club Powerbrokers, however the infection is not usually caused by Surgery, but by other “Events” Over to Katsa’s odd spot we go, where a Public Servant who was away on a Business Trip, and a Happy End in a Motel Room as part of an overnight stay for Business, became quite “vigorous”, with overhead lights crashing down on her, has decided to sue her employer as part of a Workcover Claim. The outcome will be interesting I’m sure... Until next week This is Katsa - Just as you have known him



Werribee will be hoping Craig Moore will be shouting the lads in more ways than one.

SHORT PASSES

SOUTH MELBOURNE FC GALA BALL 2011

When: Saturday 17th September, 2011
Place: Hawthorn Receptions, 555 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn
Time: 6.30pm
Price: \$120
RSVP: 31st August
Attire: Lounge Suit

PERTH GLORY PRE-SEASON HEADS TO SOUTH AFRICA

Perth Glory heads to South Africa for an important part of their pre-season program in the build-up to the 2011/12 Hyundai A-League season. The 16 day camp began on Sunday, with a 30 man touring party to be based between elite sporting facilities in Rustenburg and Durban. The squad will play three games against top flight South African sides Platinum Stars, Amazula FC and a third to be confirmed.

BRISBANE STRIKER TRIALS WITH PHOENIX

Brisbane Strikers goalscoring machine Matt Thurtell is the latest trialist to join up with the Wellington Phoenix. Thurtell, 18, has netted at a rate of a goal-a-game for his club over the past two seasons, including 17 this term. A member of the Brisbane Roar youth team last season, he is one of several trialists the club has hosted over the past few weeks and one, Niko Tsattalios, has already been rewarded with a contract.

MARINERS AGREE PARTNERSHIP WITH CENTRAL COAST RADIO

Central Coast Mariners have agreed to an official partnership with Central Coast Radio for the 2011/12 Hyundai A-League season. Incorporating 2GO (107.7FM) and SEA FM (101.3FM), Central Coast Radio were an official partner of the Mariners for the clubs’ inaugural Hyundai A-League campaign in 2005/06.

****Got any club news? Feel free to send through to news@goalweekly.com**

Australia v Uruguay



BLAST FROM THE PAST



With Roy Hay

Last week Uruguay won the Copa America for a record 15th time. Last year they came third in the World Cup in South Africa, having won the competition twice in 1930 and 1950. Brazil will host the World Cup in 2014 and Brazilians be quaking in their collective shoes that there will be no repeat of the disaster of 1950, when the Selecao was upstaged on its own soil. So it is no wonder that Australia's clashes with Uruguay have been the toughest of encounters involving pure skill and the black arts of cynical defence and football politics, by both sides.

The countries have met on nine occasions including four World Cup qualifiers in 2001 and 2005, but the first time they played was in preparation for the world Cup in West Germany in 1974, for which both nations had already qualified. The first game was played at Olympic Park in Melbourne on 25 April in front of 20,283 and ended as a tight goalless draw. Two days later they met again in Sydney and Australia won by two goals to nil. Ray Baartz scored the opener after 59 minutes, but shortly thereafter he was felled by what is often described as a 'karate chop to the throat' by Luis Garisto. That ended Baartz's World Cup participation as doctors concluded that a repetition could result in death or permanent injury. Peter Ollerton added a second goal with six minutes left to play and the visitors were not pleased with the result. They also put a lot of pressure on referee Don Campbell, but the Scot coped with it.

In 1992 the Socceroos went on a three-match tour of South America the final one being against Uruguay in Montevideo. The home side reversed the previous scoreline with goals by Sergio Martinez and Alejandro Larrea late in the second half.

Five years later the countries met for the first time in a tournament at senior level in the Confederations Cup in Saudi Arabia. Australia got through its group stage including a scoreless draw with Brazil and met a very young Uruguay side in the semi final. There were no goals in normal time, but Harry Kewell scored a golden goal two minutes into extra-time in the days when sudden death goals counted.

The next four encounters were World Cup qualifiers not friendly matches. The first of these was in 2001, when Uruguay finished in fifth place in the South American group as a result of the last round of matches. The other possibilities would have been Brazil or Colombia. The first match was in Melbourne at the MCG with 84,656 fans in attendance and

was settled by a Kevin Muscat penalty after Paul Agostino had been pushed over as he ran in on goal. That was not enough of a lead to take to Montevideo. Dario Silva scored after only 14 minutes and Australia had to chase the game. Even when substitute Richard Morales scored the first of his two goals in 70 minutes a goal to Australia would have put the Socceroos through on away goals, but in pressing hard for it they copped a third goal in the 90th minute also by Morales.

In 2005 the two countries met again, this time with the first leg in Uruguay. Much skulduggery off the field involved the timing and conditions for the matches, but the Socceroos were lucky to have Qantas sponsorship and a chartered plane to fly home immediately after the first match. 'Lucky Guus' Hiddink was in charge and he and the Socceroos managed to restrict the Uruguayans to a single goal lead in the Montevideo leg. Dario Rodriguez got that goal after 35 minutes. The second leg began with Uruguay threatening in front of 82,698 at Homebush in Sydney. Tony Popovic was lucky only to be yellow carded for coat-hangering Alvaro Recoba. Hiddink pulled him off and sent on Harry Kewell in the 31st minute. The talisman took only four minutes to make an impact, shanking an effort which fell into the path of Marco Bresciano who finished it off. There was no further score in normal or extra time and Hiddink was planning to bring on Zeljko Kalac if the game went to penalties. However, an injury to Brett Emerton meant that Josip Skoko came on for the last ten minutes as Australia's third and final substitute. The other was one John Aloisi. So Mark Schwarzer had to repeat his Canadian heroics by saving two penalty kicks, Mark Viduka's blushes and paving the way for Aloisi to do his Brandy Chastain impersonation, minus the bra.

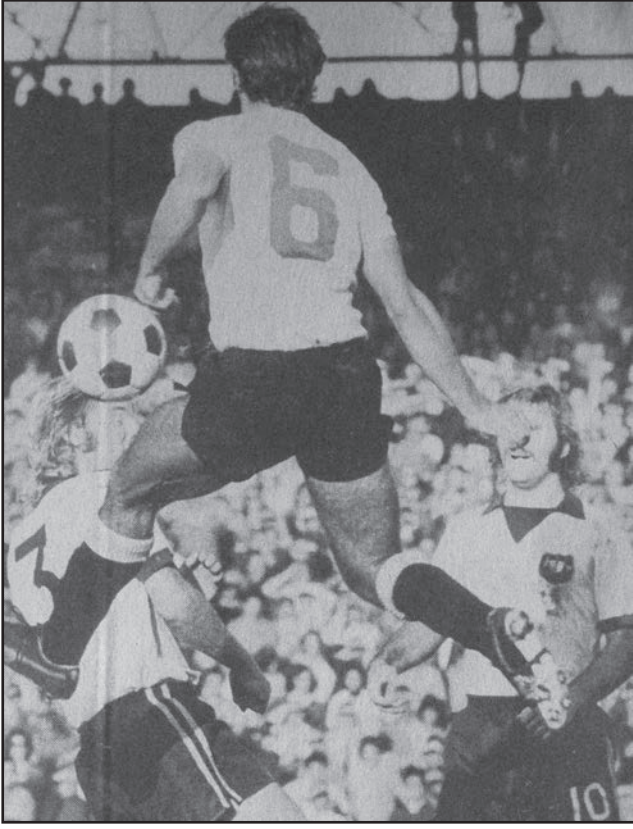
In 2007 Uruguay came back to play a friendly match in Sydney which they won by two goals to one, the second being a header by Recoba after an error by Brad Jones, deputising for Schwarzer. Diego Forlan scored the first for Uruguay and Mile Sterjovski got Australia's opener after only six minutes. Forlan only played in a couple of times against Australia, but he was the best player in the World Cup in South Africa and was the third member of his family to win the Copa America, as his father and grandfather had also done so.

So two countries with very different football pedigrees have shared honours (and dishonours) in head-to-head competition since 1974.

Punching above our weight



Harry Kewell free kick against Uruguay at the Centenario in 2001. Source: Mark Schwarzer's World Cup Destiny. AFP Photo/Daniel Garcia.



Juan Masnik of Uruguay outjumps Peter Wilson and Gary Manuel in the match between Australia and Uruguay at Olympic Park in Melbourne in 1974. Source: Laurie Schwab, The Socceroos and their Opponents.



Schwarzer saves a penalty against Uruguay at the Olympic Stadium in Sydney in 2005. Source: Mark Schwarzer's World Cup Destiny. Getty Images/Cameron Spencer.Garcia.

Matches between Australia and Uruguay

Australia 0 Uruguay 0
Olympic Park, Melbourne, 25 April 1974, friendly. Crowd: 20,283.

Australia: Jack Reilly, Doug Utjesenovic, Peter Wilson, Manfred Schaefer (Adrian Alston 37), Col Curran, Jim Mackay, Ray Richards, Jim Rooney, Ray Baartz, Gary Manuel (Peter Ollerton 62), Branko Buljevic. Coach: Rale Rasic.

Uruguay: Hector Santos, Mario Gonzalez, Walter Olivera (Gustavo De Simone 46), Juan Masnik, Mario Zoryez, Julio Jimenez, Denis Milar (Walter Mantegazza 62), Alberto Cardaccio, Juan Ramon Silva, Fernando Morena, Ruben Corbo. Coach: Roberto Porta. Referee : Peter Rampley

Australia 2 (Ray Baartz 59', Peter Ollerton 84') Uruguay 0,
Sydney Cricket Ground, 27 April 1974, friendly. Crowd: 25,708.

Australia: Jack Reilly, Doug Utjesenovic, Peter Wilson, Ray Richards, Col Curran, Jim Rooney, Dave Harding, Jim Mackay, Ray Baartz (Adrian Alston 76), Atti Abonyi, Peter Ollerton. Coach: Rale Rasic.

Uruguay: Gustavo Fernandez, Mario Gonzalez, Gustavo De Simone, Luis Garisto (sent off 76), Mario Zoryez (Juan Ramon Silva 83), Julio Jimenez, Walter Mantegazza, Alberto Cardaccio, Jose Gomez (Dennis Milar 68), Fernando Morena, Ruben Corbo. Coach: Roberto Porta. Referee : Don Campbell (Australia)

Uruguay 2 (Sergio Martinez 74', Alejandro Larrea 84') Australia 0
Estadio Centenario, Montevideo, 21 June 1992, friendly. Crowd: 18,000.

Uruguay: Roberto Siboldi, Cecilio De Los Santos, Daniel Sanchez, Fernando Kanapakis, Nelson Cabrera, Jorge Barrios, Jose Luis Salazar, Marcelo Saralegui, Adrian Paz (Diego Dorta 78), Alejandro Larrea, Gerardo Miranda (Sergio Martinez 46). Coach: Luis Cabilla.

Australia: John Filan, Andrew Marth, Mehmet Durakovic, Milan Ivanovic, Alex Tobin, Paul Wade (c), Vlado Bozinovski, Ernie Tapai, Mike Petersen, Warren Spink (Alastair Edwards 71), Jason van Blek. Coach: Eddie Thomson. Referee : Juan Carlos Loustau (Argentina)

Australia 1 (Harry Kewell 92') Uruguay 0
King Fahd Stadium, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 19 December 1997, Confederations Cup semi-final. Crowd: 22,000.

Australia: Mark Bosnich, Milan Ivanovic, Stan Laazaridis, Alex Tobin (c), Tony Vidmar, Ned Zelic, Craig Foster, Aurelio Vidmar (Josip Skoko 81), Kevin Muscat, Mark Viduka, Harry Kewell. Coach: Terry Venables.

Uruguay: Claudio Flores, Luis Lopez, Paolo Montero, Gustavo Mendez, Edgardo Adinolfi, De Los Santos, Pablo Garcia, Liber Vespa, Alvaro Recoba (Debray Silva 81), Marcelo Zalayeta, Andres Olivera. Coach: Victor Pua. Referee : Nikolai Levnikov (Russia)

Australia 1 (Kevin Muscat Penalty 79') Uruguay 0,
MCG, 20 November 2001, World Cup qualifier, first leg. Crowd: 84,656.

Australia: Mark Schwarzer, Kevin Muscat, Shaun Murphy, Craig Moore, Tony Vidmar, Brett Emerton, Paul Okon (c), Josip Skoko, Stan Lazaridis (Paul Agostino 46), Mark Viduka, Harry Kewell. Coach: Frank Farina.

Uruguay: Fabian Carini, Washington Tais, Alejandro Lembo, Paolo Montero (c), Dario Rodriguez, Gonzalo de los Santos, Pablo Garcia, Gianni Guigou, Alvaro Recoba, Federico Magallanes (Guillermo Giacomazzi 72), Javier Chevanton (Mario Reguiero 77). Referee : Graziano Cesare (Italy)

Uruguay 3 (Dario Silva 14', Richard Morales 70', 90') Australia 0
Estadio Centenario, Montevideo, 25 November 2001, World Cup qualifier, second leg., Crowd: 62,000.

Uruguay: Fabian Carini, Washington Tais, Alejandro Lembo, Paolo Montero (c), Dario Rodriguez, Pablo Garcia, Gianni Guigou, Mario Reguiero (Gonzalo de los Santos 74), Alvaro Recoba, Federico Magallanes (Richard Morales 65), Dario Silva (Gonzalo Sorondo 82). Coach: Victor Pua.

Australia: Mark Schwarzer, Kevin Muscat (Paul Agostino 73), Shaun Murphy (John Aloisi 81), Craig Moore, Tony Vidmar, Brett Emerton, Paul Okon (c), Josip Skoko, Stan Lazaridis, Mark Viduka, Harry Kewell. Coach: Frank Farina. Referee : Ali Bujsaim (United Arab Emirates)

Uruguay 1 (Dario Rodriguez 35') Australia 0
Estadio Centenario, Montevideo, 12 November 2005, World Cup qualifier, first leg. Crowd: 55,000.

Uruguay: Fabian Carini, Diego Lopez (Guillermo Rodriguez 63), Paolo Montero, Dario Rodriguez, Carlos Diogo, Pablo Garcia, Diego Perez, Alvaro Recoba, Diego Forlan (Dario Silva 18), Marcelo Zalayeta (Fabian Estoyanof 63), Richard Morales. Coach: Jorge Fossati.

Australia: Mark Schwarzer, Lucas Neill, Scott Chipperfield, Tony Vidmar, Tony Popovic, Brett Emerton, Mark Viduka (John Aloisi 80), Harry Kewell, Vince Grella, Archie Thompson (Marco Bresciano 52), Jason Culina. Coach: Guus Hiddink. Referee : Claus Bo Larson (Denmark)

Australia 1 (Marco Bresciano 35') Uruguay 0, after extra-time
Olympic Stadium, Sydney, 16 November 2005, World Cup qualifier, second leg. Crowd: 82,698.

Australia won on penalties by four goals to two. Australia: Kewell, Neill, Vidmar, Viduka (miss), Aloisi. Uruguay: D Rodriguez (saved), Varela, Estoyanoff, Zalayeta (saved).

Australia: Mark Schwarzer, Lucas Neill, Scott Chipperfield, Tim Cahill, Tony Vidmar, Tony Popovic (Harry Kewell 31), Brett Emerton (Josip Skoko 110), Mark Viduka, Vince Grella, Jason Culina, Marco Bresciano (John Aloisi 96). Coach Guus Hiddink.

Uruguay: Fabian Carini, Diego Lugano, Dario Rodriguez, Paolo Montero (Marcelo Sosa 81), Perez Pablo Garcia, Guillermo Rodriguez, Gustavo Varela, Carlos Diogo, Alvaro Recoba (Marcelo Zalayeta 73), Mario Reguiero (Fabian Estoyanoff 97), Richard Morales. Coach: Jorge Fossati.

Referee : Luis Medina Cantalejo (Spain)

Australia 1 (Mile Sterjovski 6') Uruguay (Diego Forlan 40', Alvaro Recoba 77') 2
Olympic Stadium, Sydney, 2 June 2007, friendly. Crowd: 61,795.

Australia: Brad Jones, Lucas Neill, Patrick Kisnorbo (Danny Allsopp 84), Michael Thwaite, Brett Emerton, Carl Valeri, Jason Culina (Nick Carle 70), Luke Wilkshire, Mile Sterjovski (Ryan Griffiths 55), Brett Holman (Archie Thompson 62), Scott McDonald. Coach: Graham Arnold.

Uruguay: Fabian Carini, Diego Lugano, Pablo Garcia, Dario Rodriguez, Cristian Rodriguez, Carlos Diogo, Alvaro Recoba (Fabian Cannobbio 83), Diego Perez (Guillermo Giacomazzi 46), Andres Scotti (Jorge Fucile 26), Diego Forlan (Fabian Estoyanoff), Vicente Sanchez. Coach: Oscar Tabarez. Referee : Roberto Rosetti (Italy)

Data from Ozfootball website, Laurie Schwab, The Socceroos and their Opponents, Rothman's Football Yearbooks.



Francis Fields

Apart from the Copa América withdrawals many Latin American football journalists are already going through their post-tournament proceedings with wraps, analysis of matches, criticisms and so forth.

For champions Uruguay, many of their celebrated players under Oscar Washington Tabárez took their respective flights back to Europe after celebrating triumphantly in front of home fans in Montevideo last week.

Only South American-based backup goalkeeper (pictured) in Juan Castillo and defender Andrés Scotti are a handful who remain in the continent and back to club football with their pre-season duties, especially in Chile with Colo-Colo in their case where the Clausura or closing championship has commenced this weekend.

Perhaps what has also been one of the most highlighted matches that have caught the eye away from the Copa América itself was in the Brazilian national league.

Flamengo closed to within a point of Brazilian Serie A leaders Corinthians with a 2-0 win over Gremio on Saturday, while Palmeiras also won.

Thiago Neves struck 28 minutes into the match to give hosts Flamengo the lead at Estádio Olímpico João Havelange stadium. Ronaldinho netted with 16 minutes remaining on the clock leaving his side just one point behind league leaders Corinthians but have played two matches more.

Amazing 5-4 win for Flamengo over Santos

One of those matches were mid-week in the Brasileirão as it is formally known. Last Thursday witnessed one of the best matches in its rich domestic history. The scene was the Vila Belmiro stadium, the Urbano Caldeira where Santos hosted giants Flamengo.

Santos are the current Copa Libertadores champion however for Brazilian clubs, they may have been crowned on the international stage but at home are just another side to beat. Lingered at the bottom end of the standings in 16th position, Santos now needs to tally up wins whereas the “Mengão” as the giant and popular club is affectionately known are up in third spot.

Clearly, Ronaldinho is continuing his scintillating form. Once doubted he would ever get back to his previous form, the night belonged to him after Neymar netted away two fabulous goals and setting up two for strike partner Borges at this match.

With things heading perfectly for Santos, the 3-0 scoreline after 25 minutes looked to have settled everything. The reaction however by Flamengo was very quick clawing their way back to three-all. All this by half-time.

Then the inevitable when Elano missed a spot-kick leaving Flamengo goalkeeper Felipe teasing him by dribbling the ball with his knees as the stadium was both in shock for the miss and in rave for the following actions.

This could have taken home side Santos to a 4-3 lead but Neymar made sure of that once again just after the restart. When things got to 4-4, the “R10” show began a Ronaldinho showed just why he is happy back in Brazil and enjoying his football again but also showing off his individual skills delighting crowds and helping his side Flamengo gain that respectable status once lost.

With ten minutes remaining, a wonderful free-kick by the man saw Santos’ wall completely shell-shocked once again and outclassed. The precision and the execu-

The aftermath and other tales from the Copa



Goalkeeper Juan Castillo, understudy to Fernando Muslera returns to training at Colo-Colo at a press conference alongside countryman Andrés Scotti in Santiago last week.

tion was phenomenal and hence the quality in general of the match just to goes show how Brazilian club football has nothing to envy abroad.

Tévez still a target with Corinthians

Corinthians will make another bid to sign Carlos Tévez in January if the striker is still at Manchester City.

The current Brazilian league leaders failed in an attempt to bring their former player back to the Pacaembu earlier in the transfer window. They seek to maintain their status at the top of the Brazilian league and aim to claim Tévez back from his glory days before he ventured out to Europe.

The need to bolster another forward with visions to qualify for next year’s Copa Libertadores is a strong bid and an attractive proposal for the Argentine international who keeps going under scrutiny from fans, media and his current club at City for also being too far from his homeland.

Francisco Arce, a favourite appointed as new Paraguay coach

Paraguay have announced they have installed former international fullback Francisco Arce as their new national team coach. The coach with the job was Argentinean Gerardo Martino who ended his four year successful tenure as he put it himself.

The appointment of Arce comes in the aftermath of Martino stepping down as coach earlier on Friday following a runners-up finish at Copa America signalling a cycle has ended and wishes Paraguay the very best with its successor.

It looks tough for Paraguay who seeks to qualify to another fifth consecutive World Cup berth in Brazil come 2014 but face a similar opposition to the Copa América with a midfield looking somewhat in dire straits and a job at hand that new coach Arce will have to issue.

Since the incident of star forward Salvador Cabañas has meant Paraguay seeking exchange up front from naturalised Lucas Barrios, now veteran Roque Santa Cruz, suspended Oscar Cardozo and prolific stalwart Nelson Haedo Valdéz. In goals, Justo Villar showed why he is still up for the national team. Paraguay’s first World Cup 2014 qualifier is scheduled for October 7, against Peru, in Lima.

Messi and friends exhibition match

Barcelona’s midfield maestro starred in conjunction with Chilean legend Marcelo Salas for a charity match held last Thursday at the Nacional stadium in Santiago, Chile.

The exhibition attracted big-name sponsors bringing in big-star names for a good cause and raise funds for those suffering in the Araucanía region, south of Chile where Salas himself was raised and cur-

rently lives as he also manages second division side Unión Temuco.

The cold, poverty, unemployment and hunger strikes for Indigenous political rallies have sparked concern and Lionel Messi was the star of the show. It was a relaxed atmosphere with a 7-2 thrashing for Messi’s side over a rest of the world select of Marcelo Salas’ friends in front of just over 20,000 spectators.

And precisely under the chilly and cold Andean mountains, Messi showed very comfortably that he could show up for a worthy cause and set an example of his rising status as a reference to the global game.

There were other names on his side such as former international goalkeeper Roberto “Pato” Abbondanzieri, his fellow team-mates at Barça in countrymen Javier Mascherano and Gabriel Milito who were all excused from flying out to the United States for the club’s pre-season tour.

Copa América winning captain in Uruguayan defender Diego Lugano was also present, Colombia’s John Viáfara, Javier Zanetti, Cafu who a few days later showed up as host in Rio de Janeiro for the 2014 World Cup draw, Diego Milito, Martín Palermo, Sebastián “el Loco” Abreu and Ezequiel Lavezzi all coached by former Brazil manager and captain Dunga.

For Marcelo Salas, it was a brief welcome return to his favourite local surface in Santiago where his invitees included Chilean internationals Fabián Orellana fresh from his Spanish second division promotion with Granada, personal friends Ariel “el Burrito” Ortega with whom share a friendship from their time at River Plate.

The star for Marcelo Salas’ team was Dutchman Edgar Davids, Chilean internationals including Juventus’ recent-signing Arturo Vidal, defender Pablo Contreras, Rodrigo Millar, Esteban Paredes all coming in from their quarter-final eliminated at the Copa in Argentina earlier in July and Colombian star goalscorer Radamel Falcao Garcia. The side was selected by Salas and coached by former Chilean national assistant under Marcelo Bielsa in Eduardo Berizzo who also is godfather to one of the former Chilean great’s daughters.

It was an open affair of goals and trickery however with a second half slowing down in pace, the Messi Team took full advantage and ran away victors. All donations were directed at different charities with operations in and around the southern city of Temuco and where Lionel Messi played 85 minutes of entertaining football.

FIFA U-20 World Cup in Colombia

River Plate’s young sensation Eric Lamela just recently sold to AS Roma in the Serie A put his country ahead scoring the lone goal in their group stage match edging out Mexico 1-0.

Colombia yesterday as hosts defeated

France 4-1 while Uruguay drew scoreless to Portugal. There are many stars to watch in this tournament where Brazil were hold to a gallant Egypt 1-1.

Muriel scored for Colombia in the 48th to break a 1-1 deadlock after Gilles Sunu put France ahead in the 21st and James Rodriguez equalized on a penalty in the 30th. Muriel took a pass from Michael Ortega and beat several defenders, then drilled a 15-meter (yard) shot behind French keeper Jonathan Ligali.

He scored again in the 66th and Santiago Arias added the other in the 64th to delight a 40,000 sellout in the capital city Bogotá.

The start of both Group A matches were pushed back an hour after driving rain drenched the field. Despite the deluge, the pitch was in remarkably good shape for both games.

Ecuador meet the Young Socceroos today whilst Costa Rica meets tournament favourite Spain in the other opening fixture tie for group C

New bizarre setup for Argentine club championship for 2012/13

One of the worst kept secrets coming out of Buenos Aires has nothing to do with the recent Copa. There have been rumours flying around and now confirmed last week of one of the most bizarre and fiercely criticised reforms to the domestic club structure of professional clubs in Argentina.

So bizarre that a few club board directors present at the AFA (football federation) members general meeting did not take the reform proposal serious enough at first glimpse. Reports suggest River Plate club president Daniel Passarella is behind a project that was initially rejected by AFA president Julio Grondona to later last week lobbying and approving it himself as a valid alternative.

Reporters questioned voting system as a disaster as one of those present who had exclusive access saying board directors were given documents to sign in front of them on the board room desk without any questions. The document had a list of clubs from the bottom-tier of Argentina’s football hierarchy to which benefits the so-called reform proposal.

To be honest, it has been a while since Argentina have been under a close eye to reform its Apertura/Clausura (Opening and closing) championship formats. The fact however, nobody imagined it would be in this manner.

The reasons being that AFA cannot simply afford to have its traditional giant clubs as Boca Juniors, Vélez Sarsfield, Independiente, Racing Club following suit to River Plate’s demise to the second division or the Ascenso.

In fact such is the so-called reform that by season 2012, River Plate will automatically be promoted in the unification of the Apertura and Clausura championships with the Ascenso tournament. A move

that has been tagged as “anti-football” and undemocratic.

The reason being for such a bold and bizarre move is no mystery from a broad-casting point of view.

President Cristina Fernández and her government took away all lucrative football broadcasting rights from industry heavyweight Torneos y Competencias or simply known as TyC sports for its own public-funded project “Fútbol para Todos” or Football for everyone. No channels had the exclusive rights and all matches this past season were shown live on free-to-air television.

This of course left the broadcast industry nearly empty-handed and furiously losing big bucks so AFA president Julio Grondona surely took Passarella’s proposal second time round as a deal hard to refuse.

Private entities, agencies and major franchise sponsors of clubs will gain power once again along with the broadcasting rights. Not to mention Rupert Murdoch’s Latin American chain Fox Sports where in Argentina dominates the club continental tournament broadcasts of the Libertadores and Sudamericana cups hosted by South America’s CONMEBOL body.

In this opportunity, the Fernández government will double resources to create a new channel, AFA TV and leave Grondona grinning with a project to empower the small clubs from the second tier and a “restructured” system.

Here are just some of the highlighted features to be finalised by October:

- A competition composed with the 20 teams of the first division of season 2011-12 plus the 16 Primera B Nacional (second division) sides. In addition, the champion of the Primera B Metropolitana (Metro 2nd division) and the winner of the Torneo Argentino A (Third national division).
- This means 38 teams divided into 2 zones with 19 teams each.
- The clásicos or derbies shall fixture on the first opening round or on the closing round-robin in the second season. Derbies determined by traditional rivalry.
- Five top teams in both zones qualify into the Zona Campeonato (Championship zone) along with the nine best in the general standings table.
- All the rest of the teams participate in a Zona Competencia (Competition zone) with the bottom four dropping. No average percentage systems and the possibility of proposing a Copa Sudamericana spot for the winner.
- System leaves the Primera B, C and D divisions exactly as they are.

It all sounds complex and quite ridiculous to be honest. A system that shall only enable the rich and powerful clubs to remain in power regardless of performances and results. Smaller clubs have the argument that the new format will bring them mon-



Lionel Messi turned up for a charity match event last Thursday alongside organiser and legend Marcelo Salas with plenty other big name stars on show.

ey to even out the clubs as it is after all, a political affair and a lobbying gamble.

The derbies or clásicos as well as the superclásico between Boca Juniors and River Plate shall remain intact while diminishing River Plate’s ban to play without fans away in Primera B matches this coming season, for 2011-12.

In reality the restrictions open up the legitimacy of previous and current outstanding football legislation by AFA where the economic surplus is far greater at stake for the big clubs and for the smaller ones. It seems the greed of boss Julio Grondona with his plans are going ahead while the press observes in silence.

Fans or hinchas await with arms folded with the cloud of uncertainty. They have been simply treated as consumers and objects in the face of tribal warfare where their clubs will be treated as another company to receive holdings and shares from the public listed society the government owns and distributes in funding for television rights.

The system shows its most corrupt sign yet and the solutions seems to be worse than the initial problems especially in the way the conflicts have been sought to resolve. Just exactly who comes up with them in the first place while the real victim are the fans who regardless of showing up or not week in, week out to support, not watch but support their clubs fervently, it is their tax-payer money that keeps this system going.

It is a state in Argentina’s football that nobody knows how such a crisis will end.

Argentina appoint Sabella

To top it all off, national coach Sergio Batista got the sack from Grondona after its abysmal showing at the Copa América and Estudiantes de La Plata former coach Alejandro Sabella will replace him at the helm.

Long-time crowd favourite Carlos Bianchi who has steered Vélez Sarsfield and Boca Juniors to worldwide success and domination during the past twenty years at club level was the other strong candidate.

Sabella, 56, was announced as Batista’s replacement last Thursday as he abandoned a lucrative deal with Gulf club Al Jazira in the UAE in favour of Argentina.

After a playing career that included spells at River Plate, Sheffield United, Leeds United and Estudiantes, Sabella served regularly as an assistant coach to Daniel Passarella, head coach of Argentina between 1994 and 1998. Passarella and Sabella also worked together with Uruguay, Parma, Corinthians of Brazil and Mexican side Monterrey.

As head coach, Sabella led Estudiantes to Copa Libertadores glory in 2009 and the Argentine Apertura title a year later.

Remember to stay tuned on the latest with exclusives from Latin America on our website.

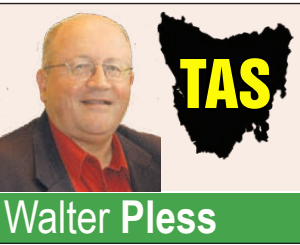
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Fight for top-4 spots intensifies in Tassie



With South Hobart already crowned Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League champions, the fight for top-four finals places intensified on Saturday.

Fifth-placed Kingborough Lions United suffered a serious set-back when they went down 4-0 at home at Lightwood Park to South Hobart. That leaves the Lions 3 points adrift of New Town Eagles, who dropped from third to fourth spot after being held to a 3-3 draw at home at Clare Street by second-placed Tilford Zebras.

Clarence United moved from fourth to third after downing sixth-ranked Glenorchy Knights 3-0 at home at Wentworth Park on Saturday night.

There are just two rounds of matches remaining.

Tom Roach gave South Hobart a 1-0 lead at the interval against Kingborough Lions when he struck in the 25th minute.

Brayden Mann made it 2-0 for the visitors in the 61st minute and Dylan Postma added the third 10 minutes from the end. Postma had scored three goals in the Reserve League curtain-raiser as South Hobart also overcame Kingborough 4-0 to secure their sixth reserve title in a row.

With 3 minutes remaining, Luke Huigsloot smashed home a superb



Tilford Zebras goalscorer Luke Cripps (right) is pressured by Eagles' David Cox Photo: WALTER PLESS

goal to complete the scoring.

Tilford Zebras took the lead after only 3 minutes against New Town Eagles, Luke Cripps turning defender Adam Bates inside the box and planting a low shot past Nathan Pitchford and inside the near left-hand post.

Joshua Quan equalised in the 13th minute when he broke through the middle and was left with only keeper Troy Kaden to beat. His shot would have gone over the bar if Kaden had not got a touch and took the pace off it, the ball then sneaking in under the bar.

In the 25th minute, Eagles striker Adam McKeown outfoxed a defender on the left and cut the ball across

the face of goal for Alex Gordon to tap home an easy goal and give the home side a 2-1 lead at the break.

Nine minutes after the resumption, Dwayne Walsh sped down the left and finished perfectly from 15 metres to make it 2-2.

Eagles appeared to have earned three points with 16 minutes remaining when Jonathon Ladic lost possession deep in his own half and substitute Chris Stingle gained possession and easily beat Kaden in a one-on-one to make it 3-2 for the home side.

But, with just 6 minutes left, former Eagles player Andrew Telega went on a long run through the middle and beat keeper Nathan Pitchford with a

powerful shot that seemed to take a slight deflection as it clipped the heels of Alex Leszczynski.

Both teams had chances to win this game, Eagles' Gordon's low drive clipping the outside of a post and Zebras' Ladic smashing a tremendous free-kick against Pitchford's right-hand upright.

In the dying minutes, the unmarked Cripps squandered a great chance from Sam McIntyre's left-wing cross when he steered a simple header straight into Pitchford's arms.

After a goalless opening half at Wentworth Park, Clarence United scored three unanswered goals to sink the Glenorchy Knights.

The Knights began in promising fashion, but Clarence soon asserted their superiority and only splendid saves by goalkeeper Ben Peter denied the home side on two occasions. Of particular note was Peter's save from Jae Ho Lee, who was making his return after a lengthy absence through injury.

The Knights' only reply came from Brendan Garth, who blazed harmlessly across the face of goal.

In the 63rd minute, Lee showed his amazing ball skills when beat a couple of defenders on the left and set up Kyu Jun Kim for the opening goal.

Matthew Nowicki then missed two glorious chances for the Knights, firing high when faced only by Clarence keeper Michael Moschogianis, and scooping another chance over the bar when a goal seemed certain.

Twelve minutes from the end it was 2-0 as substitute Aaron Browning scored with his first touch from a pass by Lee, while in stoppage time, Ben Hamlett added the third from

Next Round
Southern Premier League Friday 5th August 2011 Glenorchy Knights v New Town Eagles KGV Park 08:00 PM
Saturday 6th August 2011 South Hobart FC v Beachside FC South Hobart 02:30 PM
Clarence United v Olympia FC Wentworth Park 2 06:30 PM
Sunday 7th August 2011 Tilford Zebras v Kingborough Lions KGV Park 02:30 PM
Northern Premier League Saturday 6th August 2011 Prospect Knights v Launceston City Prospect Park
Launceston United v Burnie United Birch Avenue 02:30 PM
Northern Rangers v Devonport City NTCA 02:30 PM
Ulverstone v Riverside Olympic Ulverstone Showgrounds 02:30 PM
Somerset has the Bye.

Browning's pass from the right.

In the Forestry Tasmania Northern Premier League, Devonport City retained top spot with a 3-0 home win over fourth-placed Ulverstone at Valley Road.

Prospect Knights stayed second after beating Riverside Olympic 3-1 away at Windsor Park, while reigning champions Northern Rangers held on to third spot with a 3-1 away win over Somerset at Cardigan Street.

Chris Smith gave Somerset the lead with an excellent volley, but Gabriel Tams equalised with a fine goal from an acute angle to make it 1-1 at half-time.

Chris Hunt's free-kick put Rangers ahead, Somerset keeper Mitch Deal helping the ball into the net with a misplaced punch, while Patrick

Tasmania Results
Southern Premier League New Town Eagles 3 Tilford Zebras 3 Kingborough Lions 0 South Hobart FC 4 Clarence United 2 Glenorchy Knights 0 Beachside FC 1 Olympia FC 3
Northern Premier League Riverside Olympic 1 Prospect Knights 3 Burnie United 2 Launceston City 2 Devonport City 3 Ulverstone 0 Somerset 1 Northern Rangers 3

Northern Division							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Devonport City	14	12	0	2	56	19	36
Prospect Knights	14	11	1	2	41	12	34
Northern Rangers	14	11	1	2	39	15	34
Ulverstone	14	7	1	6	29	25	22
Somerset	15	6	0	9	29	39	18
Launceston City	15	4	4	7	26	29	16
Riverside Olympic	14	4	2	8	21	36	14
Burnie United	14	4	1	9	25	36	13
Launceston United	14	0	0	14	19	73	0

Southern Division							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	19	15	3	1	73	18	48
Tilford Zebras	19	9	7	3	58	36	34
Clarence United	19	8	7	4	36	40	31
New Town Eagles	19	7	8	4	38	34	29
Kingborough Lions	19	8	2	9	35	43	26
Glenorchy Knights	19	4	5	10	27	45	17
Olympia Warriors	18	3	4	11	26	48	13
Beachside	18	1	4	13	18	47	7

Lanau-Atkinson made it 3-1 in a goalmouth scramble

Burnie United and Launceston City drew 2-2 at Burnie's Montello headquarters.

In the only Southern League One match on Saturday, Metro became the new leaders after winning 4-1 at home at North Chigwell against Nelson Eastern Suburbs.

Roland Stern netted twice for Metro, whose other goals came from Danny Cowen and Adam Woodward. Ryan Endall replied for Nelson.



Adelaide Blue Eagles reclaimed third position on the Super League ladder after a controversial 2-0 win over nine-man Western Strikers in Round 16 of the Super League at Carnegie Reserve on Saturday.

A close match was settled by a second half Kym Harris double as Jordan Spadavecchia and Calvin Mbaraga both saw red for Strikers.

Blue Eagles Coach Vojo Gluscevic said his side dropped psychologically after the red cards and that third place is still up for grabs. He also believes the Federation Cup final between the two sides will be a different match altogether.

"I thought we played better against eleven men," he claimed.

"Against ten, then nine, we mentally thought it was easier and slowed down. We are third, but nothing is settled just yet. As for the final, this game does not make much difference for that match; it will depend on the day itself."

Western Strikers Coach Aldo Maricic saw a positive performance from his side despite the player disadvantage and believes it will be a good learning curve for the finals and Federation Cup final.

"Blue Eagles were probably superior before the first red card," he supposed.

"After that we got better as we re-organised. After the second red card we attacked but in the end they finished their chances and we were not able to.

"This match is a good learning curve for the finals. It also gives us confidence for the Cup final because we showed we can play well."

Strikers had the best opportunity of the opening exchanges, with Mbaraga one-on-one with Gino De Lucia, but he was denied by the veteran goal-



Adelaide City players celebrate Nicky Budin's winner. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

keeper.

The first red card arrived just before the half-hour mark, as Spadavecchia was deemed to retaliate and foul his opponent, being shown a straight red card.

Ten minutes into the second half and Blue Eagles won a penalty. Ambassador Sium Yosief brought down Fortunato Filletti and Harris blasted the resulting spot-kick high into the corner.

Strikers went down to nine men midway through the second half as Mbaraga was adjudged to have stepped on a prone opponent when attempting to win the ball.

Harris had a chance to extend the lead but saw his one-on-one effort kept out by Takumi Takahashi.

Blue Eagles striker Nicholas Bucco was denied on a counter-attack by Takahashi as midfielder Evan Kounavelis also found the custodian difficult to beat.

Strikers did not give up but as they chased an equaliser late on the in-

evitable gaps appeared at the back. Harris found himself through on goal and was able to slot his strike past Takahashi to seal the three points in injury time.

The top three players for Western Strikers were Chahine Noujaim, Adrian D'Alfonso and captain Michele La Stella. For Blue Eagles, Christopher Atsikbasis, goal-scorer Harris and Filletti were standouts.

Raiders and Modbury shared the points after a 1-1 draw at the Croatian Sports Centre on Saturday.

Both goals arrived in quick succession as Anthony Solagna put the Jets a goal to the good 20 minutes in, only for Adam Harris to grab a share of the spoils three minutes later.

Best on ground for Raiders were Daniel Hain, Mimi Saric and Paul Mackey, while Chris Dean, Dan Elekwachi and Solagna were Modbury's top players.

Adelaide City returned to the winners list with a 1-0 victory over Adelaide Galaxy at Con Makris Park on



Adelaide City's Matthew Halliday outjumps Kodi Madeley (Adelaide Galaxy). Photo: ADAM BUTLER

Saturday.

Going into this match after a loss and two draws, City captain Nicky Budin scored the only goal of the game in the first half.

Best on ground for the defeated Galaxy were Paris Okai, Tom Dittmar and Adam Lecornu. For Adelaide City, Paul Pezos, Jace Cummins and Jonathon Negus were the top performers.

Campbelltown gave themselves an outside chance of reaching the finals after a 3-0 victory over Croydon at Polonia Park on Saturday.

Stephen Maio scored a goal in each half for the Red Devils, with Matthew Deegan sealing the result with just over ten minutes to play.

Dion Gazettas, Alemayo Kebede and Andrew Harous performed ably for Croydon, while Campbelltown's best were Christopher D'Alfonso, Oliver Totani and Nicholas Green.

MetroStars romped to a 4-0 victory over Para Hills at The Paddocks on

This Week
Western Strikers vs Adelaide City Carnegie Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 6/Aug
Adelaide Galaxy vs Modbury Makris Park 3:00 PM Sat 6/Aug
Adelaide Blue Eagles vs Croydon Marden Sports Complex 3:00 PM Sat 6/Aug
Campbelltown vs Para Hills Steve Woodcock Sports Ctre 3:00 PM Sat 6/Aug
Metro Stars vs Raiders TK Shutter Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 6/Aug

Saturday.

The win, secured with all goals coming in the first half, keeps the 'Stars close to Adelaide City. Scott Tunbridge scored a hat-trick with Michael Matricciani netting the other goal.

Tunbridge was best on ground, joined by Steven Grelli and Adam van Domelle. For Para Hills, Rhys Townsend, Brett Selga and Shane Tobias put up some resistance.

FFSA Results
DEVINE SUPER LEAGUE Round 16 Results
Western Strikers 0 v Adelaide Blue Eagles 2 (Kym Harris 2) (HT 0-0) Best – Western Strikers: Chahine Noujaim, Adrian D'Alfonso, Michele Lastella; Adelaide Blue Eagles: Christopher Atsikbasis, Kym Harris, Fortunato Filletti, Reserves – Western Strikers 1 v Adelaide Blue Eagles 1 U19 – Western Strikers 1 v Adelaide Blue Eagles 3

Raiders 1 (Adam Harris) v Modbury 1 (Anthony Solagna) (HT 1-1) Best – Raiders: Daniel Hain, Mimi Saric, Paul Mackey; Modbury: Chris Dean, Dan Elekwachi, Anthony Solagna, Reserves – Raiders 4 v Modbury 1 U19 – Raiders 0 v Modbury 3

Adelaide Galaxy 0 v Adelaide City 1 (Nicky Budin) (HT 0-1) Best – Adelaide Galaxy: Parys Okai, Tom Dittmar, Adam Lecornu; Adelaide City: Paul Pezos, Jace Cummins, Jonathon Negus Reserves – Adelaide Galaxy 1 v Adelaide City 3 U19 – Adelaide Galaxy 1 v Adelaide City 1
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Croydon 0 v Campbelltown City 3 (Stephen Maio 2, Mathew Deegan) (HT 0-1) Best – Croydon: Dion Gazettas, Alemayo Kebede, Andrew Harous; Campbelltown City: Christopher D'Alfonso, Oliver Totani, Nicholas Green, Reserves – Croydon 3 v Campbelltown City 3 U19 – Croydon 0 v Campbelltown City 3
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Para Hills 0 v MetroStars 4 (Scott Tunbridge 3, Michael Matricciani) (HT 0-4) Best – Para Hills: Rhys Townsend, Brett Selga, Shane Tobias; MetroStars: Scott Tunbridge, Steven Grelli, Adam van Domelle Reserves – Para Hills 0 v MetroStars 1 U19 – Para Hills 0 v MetroStars 2
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Standings								
	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	Gd	Pts
1 Adelaide City	16	12	3	1	41	14	27	39
2 Metro Stars	16	12	2	2	43	12	31	38
3 Adelaide BE	16	9	2	5	22	19	3	29
4 Western Strikers	16	8	2	6	22	15	7	26
5 Adelaide Galaxy	16	6	4	6	22	24	-2	22
6 Campbelltown	16	5	3	8	15	19	-4	18
7 Raiders	16	4	3	9	20	26	-6	15
8 Para Hills	16	3	4	9	11	25	-14	13
9 Croydon	16	3	4	9	10	25	-15	13
10 Modbury	16	3	3	10	18	46	-28	12

Balcatta romps to WA Premiership



Jacob Kagi

Balcatta are the Premiers of the WA State Premier League after wrapping up the title with four rounds to spare.

Remarkably, they did it without even having to kick a ball, as Perth's 4-1 away loss to Western Knights ended its Premiership push and handed the Cats the title after an incredible season which has seen them win 16 of their 19 games so far.

In just its second season back in the top flight, Salv Todaro's side ran away with the Premiership and will enter the top-five finals as the heavy favourite. The Cats saw off Perth after two goals to striker Stuart Montgomery, as well as an impressive Simon Versaico strike and a Johnny Mirco tap-in saw Western Knights comfortably win at Nash Field.

The Knights were without several key players, including Stuart Ferguson and Duncan Hind, but overcame that to control the majority of the game. Montgomery put his side ahead

in the sixth minute and after Mirco and Versaico scored in the 32nd and 44th minutes respectively, the game was wrapped up.

David Onoforo got one back from the penalty spot in the 46th minute, but Montgomery's second in the 53rd restored the Knights' three-goal lead. Cockburn City need a miracle to avoid relegation after losing to Sorrento 1-0.

City are six points from safety and have played one more game than 10th-placed Armadale. And with two of their final four games against teams in the top five - Inglewood and Perth - it's hard to see them overturning that gap.

Jamie Harnwell netted the only goal of the game in the 80th minute for Sorrento, which consolidated its spot in the finals with the victory.

Mandurah City moved within one point of safety after a 2-2 draw against Floreat Athena. But Mandurah would have climbed out of the bottom two had they not blown a two-goal lead in the second half.

City took the lead with two goals within a minute early in the second half, but James Isaia got one back for Floreat in the 58th minute, before Joshua Zavala pinched a point with his



Western Knights's midfielder Luca Jukic takes on Perth SC midfielder Matthew Izzo at Nash Field.

Photo: PETER SIMCOX

86th minute goal.

Armadale's game with Inglewood United was abandoned after 29 minutes due to a waterlogged pitch.

A torrential downpour in WA on Saturday wrecked havoc for many sports over the weekend and it was no different at Alfred Skeet Oval, where conditions were too poor to continue playing.

The match will be replayed at

a later date.

Stirling Lions' finals hopes received a significant blow with a 4-2 away loss to ECU Joondalup.

A draw would have been enough for the Lions to climb into the top five, but instead they succumbed to a heavy defeat to the struggling Joondalup, which moved seven points clear of the relegation zone with the victory.

Thornley scored twice from the penalty spot and added another in the 65th minute to set up victory for ECU, which led 4-0 at one stage before two late consolation goals to the Lions.

And Bayswater City and NTC played out a thrilling 4-4 draw. Bayswater scored in the 89th and 9erd minutes to salvage the draw.

Tigers Bite Back To Down Canberra FC



Russ Gibbs

Cooma Tigers twice fought back from being a goal behind to inflict a second league defeat in succession on the previously invincible Canberra FC with a terrific 3-2 victory in front of an appreciative crowd at Nijong Oval in Round 14 of the Rock Premier League.

The home team was forced to showcase its powers of recovery after falling behind to a stunning seventeenth minute opener to Josip Jadric. The winger struck a powerful shot that flew into the Cooma net leaving the home goalkeeper helpless by the ferocity of the strike. That solitary goal proved to be the only one of the first half but any thoughts that the visitors might be back to winning ways after their home loss to Canberra Olympic seven days ago was brought crashing back to earth when Iain Elliott fired a rasping drive into the net to level the match at 1-1 thirteen minutes into the second half.

The champions regained the initiative barely six minutes later though when Ian Graham was on hand to notch his sixth league goal of the season and seemingly restore normality. However the Tigers roared again and Serdan Bircan bravely hurtled into a 50-50 with Ben Klug in the Canberra FC goal getting to the ball first to make the score 2-2 in the 72nd minute. And, only two min-

utes later the home team were in front. Elliott swung over a delicious cross and Alex Castro, once of Canberra FC, connected to power a diving header into the net and secure a home win.

The defeat allowed Canberra FC's nearest title rivals Canberra Olympic to move five points clear at the top of the table after they proved too strong for Monaro Panthers in a one-sided contest at O'Connor Enclosed winning 4-0. After an unfortunate own goal gave Olympic the lead early on, James McLachlan getting the unlucky final touch to a defensive melee, the home team was always in control of the outcome. After the break Mohsen Ravanparsa in the 66th minute and Robbie Shroder, seven minutes later, scored their eighth goals of the season to secure the win before Milan Popovich troubled the scorers for the first time this season by rounding off the scoring nine minutes from the final whistle.

Belconnen United got back to winning ways themselves on Sunday afternoon as they proved to be more ruthless than Tuggeranong United as they disposed of their plucky visitors to McKellar Park by four goals to nil. Dustin Wells proved once again to be the king of the dead-ball netting a hat-trick of set-piece efforts including a brace of penalties in the first half. Danny Macor had the Blue Devils in front in only the 21st minute with his seventh goal of the season before Tuggeranong goalkeeper Alex Connell was adjudged to have fouled a Belconnen attacker in the penalty area. Wells made no mistake from the spot-kick and repeated



Luke McGrath (Monaro) is tackled by Joel Valtonen (Canberra Olympic) with Milan Popovich coming in for extra cover. Photo: NICK GUOTH

the feat in the 34th minute after a penalty was again awarded, this time for handball. In the second half Tuggeranong was given a penalty of their own but skipper Tim Ireson saw his shot saved by Rowan Sheppard and Wells added the coup de grace for the home team two minutes from time with a belting free-kick from distance to register his treble and his 24th goal of the season.

At Hawker Football Centre on Saturday evening Canberra City and Woden Valley played out a goalless draw with chances few and far between. That's not to say there weren't any with Alex Oloriegbe missing the best opportunity for the visitors firstly firing wide when through one-on-one early on and secondly following a Ben Pagett cross whilst Nikola Taneski tested

the reflexes of the Woden shot-stopper Jack Pettit, who also did well to save a well-struck free-kick from Misko Naumoski. City looked for all the world as if they had won the match when a shot was goal bound with Pettit beaten however Hector Alamos saved the day with a magnificent stooping clearance off the goal line. A draw however was a fair result at the end of the day.

All Flags WA Results

First Team

Armadale Inglewood United (Abandoned 29m); Cockburn City 0 Sorrento 1(J.Harnwell 80.); Floreat Athena 2 (Isala 58, Zevela 86.) Mandurah City 2(OG 50, Dos Santos 51.); ECU Joondalup 4 (Thornley 6p, 40p, 65, Rodgers 46.)Stirling Lions 2 (Watt 70, O'Callaghan 90.); Bayswater City 4 (Spurling 11, Knight 68p, 89, 93.) NTC 4 (Quaqua 16, Musa 52, O'Neill 65p, 79p.); Western Knights 4 (Montgomery 6, 53, Mirco 32, Versaico 44.) Perth SC 1(Onoforo 42p.);

Reserves

Armadale 2 Inglewood United 8; Cockburn City 0 Sorrento 4; Floreat Athena 5 Mandurah City 3; ECU Joondalup 2 Stirling Lions 2; Bayswater City 1 NTC 5; Western Knights 4 Perth SC 0;

Under 18's

Armadale 6 Inglewood United 2; Cockburn City 4 Sorrento 2; Floreat Athena 5 Mandurah City 0; ECU Joondalup 1 Stirling Lions 2; Bayswater City 0 NTC 3; Western Knights 4 Perth SC 3;

Next Round - State League Cup

Inglewood United v Western Knights

6PR Stadium 3:00 PM Sat 6/Aug

Perth SC v Armadale SC

BGC Stadium 3:00 PM Sat 6/Aug

ECU Joondalup v Sorrento FC

Joondalup Football Strm 3PM Sat 6/Aug

Bayswater City v Floreat Athena FC

Frank Drago Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 6/Aug

Balcatta SC v NTC

Grindlford Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 6/Aug

Mandurah City v Cockburn City

Hyundai Stadium 3:00 PM Sun 7/Aug

BYE v Stirling Lions

All Flags WA Premier League

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Balcatta	19	16	0	3	49	15	34	48
2 Perth SC	18	11	1	6	34	25	9	34
3 Western Knights	18	9	4	5	30	26	4	31
4 Sorrento	18	8	5	5	26	23	3	29
5 Inglewood United	17	8	3	6	38	29	9	27
6 Stirling Lions	20	8	3	9	37	37	0	27
7 Floreat Athena	18	7	5	6	33	27	6	26
8 Bayswater City	20	6	8	6	37	39	-2	26
9 ECU Joondalup	20	7	2	11	24	38	-14	23
10 Armadale	18	6	2	10	33	37	-4	20
11 Mandurah City	20	4	4	12	19	31	-12	16
12 Cockburn City	18	3	2	13	23	47	-24	11

ACT Results

Canberra City 0 Woden Valley 0

Cooma Tigers 3 (Iain Elliott 58', Serdan Bircan 72', Alex Castro 74') Canberra FC 2 (Josip Jadric 17', Ian Graham 64')

Canberra Olympic 4 (James McLachlan (own goal) 10', Mohsen Ravanparsa 66', Robbie Shroder 73', Milan Popovich 81') Monaro Panthers 0

Belconnen United 4 (Danny Macor 21', Dustin Wells 27' (pen), 30' (pen), 88') Tuggeranong United 0

Next Round

Goulburn Strikers v Canberra FC

Cookbundoon

3:00 PM Sat 6/Aug

Canberra City v Cooma SC

Hawker Football Centre 3:00 PM Sun 7/Aug

Woden Valley v Monaro

Woden Park Enclosed

3:00 PM Sun 7/Aug

Belconnen United v Canberra Olympic

McKellar Park

4:00 PM Sun 7/Aug

BYE v TUFC

ACT Standings

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Canberra Olympic	13	10	2	1	49	15	+34	32
2 Canberra FC	11	9	0	2	54	15	+39	27
4 Belconnen United	13	7	2	4	47	27	+20	23
3 Canberra City	13	6	3	4	43	18	+25	21
5 Woden Valley	12	4	4	4	41	22	+19	16
6 Cooma Tigers	12	5	1	6	26	35	-9	16
7 Monaro Panthers	13	3	3	7	28	29	-1	12
8 Tuggeranong Utd	13	3	3	7	24	34	-10	12
9 Goulburn Strikers	12	0	0	12	5	121	-116	0

LEADING SCORERS

24 Dustin WELLS (Belconnen United)

16 Mark SHIELDS (Monaro Panthers)

14 Misko NAUMOSKI (Canberra City), Paul IVANIC (Canberra FC)

13 Alex OLORIEGBE (Woden Valley)

12 Domenic GIAMPAOLO (Canberra Olympic), Victor YANES (Canberra FC)

AFC World Cup 2nd Round Wrap

By Paul Mavroudis

The Socceros will be confident of progressing through to the AFC World Cup Qualifying fourth round, having received a favourable draw when the groups for the third were announced on Saturday night.

Australia has been pooled with Saudi Arabia, Oman and Thailand in Group D, and will open their World Cup qualifying campaign at home against the Thais on September 2nd. The top two sides from the group will progress to the next round.

While the 2nd leg scorelines were generally closer than in the 1st legs, there were no major upsets in the second round of AFC World Cup Qualifying last Thursday night.

In the first leg of the ‘Causeway Derby’, Singapore had beaten Malaysia 5-3, meaning that a two goal win to Malaysia would have likely been enough to see them through on away goals. But in front of a massive crowd in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia were seldom able to create anything worthwhile, despite the obvious effort being put in.

For their part, Singapore were content to sit back and counter attack, as well as milk the clock in ever more gregarious fashion – at one stage, four minutes seemed to have been wasted while Qiu Li feigned death after the barest of touches from Malaysia’s goalkeeper – only to miraculously step off the stretcher before the medical staff had managed to lift it off the ground. Further delaying play was a laser being shone into the face of the Singaporean goalkeeper.

Safa Sali gave the home side hope when he scored with a powerful right foot shot about half an hour from time. But the Malaysians had little composure throughout the game, shooting and passing wildly, which the well organised Singapore



Singapore move into the 3rd round of Asian World Cup qualifying

defence had little trouble in cleaning up. When a long ball was sent up the field and headed on by Alex Duric, Shi Jiayi sliced through the porous Malaysian defense and placed the ball into the corner to virtually end the tie, Singapore progressing 6-4 on aggregate.

On the other side of the continent, Thailand were given a scare away to Palestine, when their 1-0 lead from the first leg was cancelled out after just six minutes when Murad Elyyan opened the scoring for the home side. But Datsakorn Thonglao’s 32nd minute goal gave the Thais a crucial away goal, and though Palestine managed to get the score to 2-1, a late goal to the visitors saw the game finish 2-2 and the tie 3-2 to Thailand.

Indonesia had been the only away team to avoid defeat in the first leg matches, after drawing 1-1 with Turkmenistan – and their passage to round three seemed secure when they raced to a 3-0 halftime lead. Even an own goal to make it 3-1 seemed to matter little, as the Indonesians scored again to make it 4-1

with less than 20 minutes to play. When the visitors had a man sent off, it should have ended the tie, but they rallied and scored twice in the last ten minutes to give the home team an almighty fright, but they couldn’t find a crucial fourth goal which would have seen them progress on away goals.

2022 World Cup hosts Qatar carried a 3-0 lead into the away leg against Vietnam, and an early Yousef Ahmed goal in the second leg sealed the deal for Qatar, even though they would go on to lose the game 2-1. Bangladesh defeated Lebanon 2-0 in Dhaka, but it was not nearly enough to overcome the 4-0 deficit they faced from the first leg in Beirut. China beat Laos 6-1 to win that tie 13-3 on aggregate.

Jordan drew 1-1 away against Nepal, progressing through 10-1 on aggregate. Likewise Saudi Arabia also cruised through to the third round after an 8-0 aggregate win over Hong Kong. Iraq and Yemen drew 0-0, seeing Iraq go through 2-0 on aggregate, while Iran had a 1-0 win over the Maldives, to progress 5-0 on aggregate.

India were already down 3-0 from their first leg match against the UAE, and were 2-0 down in their home leg before rallying to finish the game at 2-2, but the damage had already been done. Taking a 3-0 lead into the second leg, Kuwait came from behind to beat the Philippines 2-1 in Manila, while Syria beat Tajikistan 4-0 to come away with a 6-1 aggregate win.

The second leg match between Burma and Oman was abandoned just before halftime, when Burmese fans began throwing rocks and bottles onto the field at protest against a penalty decision. Oman had been winning 2-0 on the night and 4-0 on aggregate - the game will not be replayed, and Oman go through to the third round.

WAG OF THE WEEK



Larissa Riquelme Age: 26 Paraguay’s most famous fan

Couch Potato Dept.



Monday August 1st
08:45 AM FIFA U-20 World Cup Colombia 2011: Australia v Ecuador - Live from Estadio Palogrande, Manizales, Colombia.
04:30 PM Futbol Mundial
11:30 PM The World Game

Thursday August 4th
10:45 AM FIFA U-20 World Cup Colombia 2011: Australia v Costa Rica - Live from Estadio Palogrande, Manizales, Colombia.

Sunday August 7th
07:45 AM FIFA U-20 World Cup Colombia 2011: Australia v Spain - Live from Estadio Palogrande, Manizales, Colombia.
10:30 AM Football Asia - Provides the latest news and updates of the various football leagues across Asia.

11:00 AM Les Murray’s Football Feature - FIFA U-20 World Cup Colombia 2011 - Highlights of Australia matches.

12:00 PM Futbol Mundial - Weekly football magazine show that travels the globe to bring you the stars of today, the talents of tomorrow and the heroes of the past.



The Futbol Town Show
Every Tuesday 7pm

Extra Time
Magazine Show
Every Tuesday 7.30pm

SMFC TV
Channel 31
Every Wed 7pm

The Green Gully Football Show
Every Saturday 10.30am

SBS STWO
Monday August 1st
09:30 PM The World Game



Thursday 4-Aug
Copa Sudamericana 1st Stage 1st Leg Olimpia v The Strongest 10:10am LIVE

Saturday 6-Aug
Bundesliga Opening Round Dortmund v Hamburg 4:25am LIVE
J-League Round 20 Urawa Reds v Vissel Kobe 8:00pm LIVE

Sunday 7-Aug
Ligue 1 Opening Round Nancy v Lille 6:00am 1st Airing
Ligue 1 Opening Round Marseille v Sochaux 7:45am 1st Airing
Bundesliga Opening Round Hertha Berlin v Nuremberg 9:30am 1st Airing
Ligue 1 Opening Round PSG v Lorient 2:30pm 1st Airing
Scottish Premier League Round 3 Aberdeen v Celtic 9:10pm LIVE
FA Community Shield Man Utd v Man City 11:25pm LIVE

Monday 8-Aug
Bundesliga Opening Round Mainz v Leverkusen 2:45am 1st Airing
Ligue 1 Opening Round Bordeaux v St Etienne 4:55am LIVE
Bundesliga Opening Round Bayern Munich v Monchengladbach 8:45am 1st Airing
Eredivisie Opening Round De Graafschap v Ajax 3:45pm

Thursday 11-Aug
International England v Netherlands 4:45am LIVE
Copa Sudamericana 2nd Stage 1st Leg Flamengo v Atletico Paranaense 10:45am LIVE



Tuesday 02nd August
05:30 am FA Cup Classics (Rpt) F.A. Cup - Arsenal V Chelsea Final 2001/02

Wednesday 03rd August
05:30 am FA Cup Classics (Rpt) G Arsenal V Liverpool 4th Round 00/01

Thursday 04th August
05:30 am FA Cup Classics (Rpt) G Barnsley V Manchester United 5th Round Replay 97/98

Monday 08th August
01:30 am FA Cup Classics G Luton Town V Liverpool 3rd Round 05/06



Npower Championship
Sat Aug 6 Hull v Blackpool
4.30 am LIVE

Sun Aug 7 Southampton v Leeds
2.00 am LIVE

Sun Aug 7 West Ham v Cardiff
9.55 pm LIVE

FACE IN THE CROWD



Win a Goal! Weekly subscription simply by spotting yourself in the crowd!

GW photographer Jim Hatchman was on hand to capture fans watching the QSL’s FNQ Bulls against Gold Coast Stars.

If that’s you circled in the picture above, send us a message on our Facebook page or drop us an email at news@goalweekly.com so you can win your prize - it’s that easy!

You’ve got until noon this Friday to claim your prize. Good luck!



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Knights bring Cobram’s Cup fairytale to an end



Robert Di Fabio

The final two Round 6 (Final 12) fixtures were completed throughout the last fortnight.

Ballarat Red Devils (State 2) 1-2 Hume City (VPL) at Morshead Park

The Red Devils encompassed a gallant display against a high flying Hume City outfit; however the team from Ballarat fell agonisingly short, conceding a late goal, courtesy of a wonder strike from Ross Thompson.

Ballarat were no strangers to facing VPL opposition, amid their triumph in the previous round against recently relegated St Albans Saints. On that occasion, the Red Devils overpowered their higher ranked opposition with a 3-1 win.

Hume started off proceeding in buoyant fashion, pressuring the Ballarat defensive line in search of an early goal and although coming close on a couple of occasions, the scores remained deadlocked until the tie was turned on its head in the 22nd minute.

Ballarat shocked the VPL leaders when a beautifully taken free-kick flew into the back of the net.

Adam Newbold stepped up to the charge from 30 yards out and hit his shot crisply, giving the Red Devils an unexpected advantage.

The goal provided Ballarat with a surge of confidence, taking up the contest to its highly credential opposition.

With the commencement of the second period, it didn’t take long for Hume to regain its composure, scoring an equaliser merely a minute after



Cobram clears the lines against the Knights. Photo: STEVE STAREK

the restart.. A wonderful strike from Zoran Petrevski outside the box gave little hope for Ballarat keeper Darryl Newby.

Controversy struck in the 68th minute when Ballarat’s Frank Labakohler was through on goal with only the keeper Louie Acevski to beat. Attempting to round Acevski, Labakohler was brought down, however the referee ignored Ballarat’s pleas for a penalty and waved play on.

As the Red Devils continued to press for the winner, they became unstuck in the 80th minute when Hume scored the goal which would ultimately send them through to the last six.

Ballarat failed to close down a penetrating run from Thompson in the midfield, with time at his disposal Thompson tried his luck with an audacious 30-yard drive that hit the woodwork and rolled over the line.

Hume City ventured on to win the tie 2-1 and cement their position in the next round. Ballarat illustrated their aptitude to compete with the best and will evidently be proud of their efforts throughout their Mirabella Cup campaign.

Melbourne Knights (VPL) 2-1 Cobram Victory (Regional) at Knights Stadium
Cobram Victory’s courageous cup reverie was brought an end, courtesy of 2-1 triumph to the Melbourne Knights.

A brace from Kayne Vincent was enough to cement a spot for the Knights in the last six of the competition.

In typical underdog fashion, Cobram commenced proceedings in a buoyant manner, eager to make their presence felt on the big stage. The Victory players attempted to apply early pressure on the Knights, restricting their opposition time on the ball.

However, it wasn’t much longer before the Knights’ faithful could sing their praises. Joseph Franjic collected the ball on the left wing and delivered a lovely flighted cross towards the far post. The subsequent ball found the unmarked Vincent who had no troubles heading the ball into the back of the net.

Cobram defended robustly denying the Knights from incresasing their advantage into the half time interval.

Cobram withstood the Knight’s onslaught, and were fortunate they went



Take a bow: Cobram Victory produced an exceptional Cup run. Photo: STEVE STAREK

into the main break trailing 1-0.

The second half commenced in similar fashion to how the opening period ended, with the Knights applying vigorous pressure on the Cobram defence. The heroics of Victory’s keeper Kile Kennedy saved Cobram’s blushes. A stinging strike from Vincent brought about an acrobatic save at the near post to keep the tie at only a one goal margin.

The Knights were finally given some breathing space in the 70 minute, doubling their advantage with a nicely worked goal. Substitute Yusuf found space on the right wing and worked his way towards the edge of the box, where he cut the ball back to find Vincent free at the near post to tuck the ball into the goal.

However, Cobram’s cup antics were not yet officially over and in the 83rd minute Matthew Gray sprinkled some Cobram magic into the Knights’ heartland. A free kick on the left side of the box was beautifully curled into the far post. The goal sent the vocal travelling fans into raptures and the fairytale ventured onwards.

The final minutes of the game exemplified an enormous amount of

tension for all involved within the vicinity. Cobram tried desperately to get the equaliser they wholly desired, planting numerous balls into the Knights’ defensive box. Although the Knights withstood Cobram’s charges in the closing minutes and ultimately triumphed 2-1.

Melbourne Knights will now move into the Quarter-Finals Series, where a modified fixture will see a round-robin sequence take place. The Knights have been placed in Pool B where they will face VPL affiliates Green Gully Cavaliers and Hume City. The top two teams will consequently progress to the Semi-Finals stage.

Follow Robert on Twitter @Robert-DiFabio

The Final Six	
Pool A: <i>Northcote City, Oakleigh Cannons, Springvale White Eagles</i>	
Match 1: Northcote City v Oakleigh Cannons Match 2: Oakleigh Cannons v Springvale White Eagles Match 3: Springvale White Eagles v Northcote City	
Pool B: <i>Green Gully Cavaliers, Hume City, Melbourne Knights</i>	
Match 1: Green Gully Cavaliers v Hume City Match 2: Hume City v Melbourne Knights Match 3: Melbourne Knights v Green Gully Cavaliers	

Women to play for Cup

FFV and Pelada have combined to form a state-wide knockout style tournament for the women’s game. The cup competition will commence in 2012 and will be known as the Pelada Cup.

The Pelada Cup will follow in the footsteps of the Mirabella Cup and will be run in a similar vein, with an obvious knock-out format, whilst clubs from around Victoria will be seeded according to their respective league ranking. The competition. To be eligible for participation, clubs must enrol a women’s senior team. The dates and format of the cup have not been officially revealed thus far, however the FFV have stated that the cup will be of a ‘similar format’ in format to the Mirabella Cup.

Rising Star

Daniel Quinn

Christopher Cristaldo was born on 15th of January 1995 in Asunción, Paraguay.

He moved to Melbourne when he was two years old with his father Victor.

Football fans may well recall the skills of Victor Christaldo, who played in South America with Paraguayan clubs Sport Colombia and Presidente Hayes before moving to Melbourne to play for the once powerful Thomastown and Western Suburbs clubs.

Christopher, despite being only sixteen has played a vital role down the right wing for the Victorian Training Centre (VTC) in the Victorian Premier League (VPL). He has demonstrated immense speed and dribbling skills for one so young.

Christopher also played for the Melbourne Victory Youth team in the National Youth League where he made three appearances.

Victor Cristaldo coached Christopher in the under 8s at Brimbank Soccer club along with his nephew Hernan Espindola in the under 9s.

Hernan is a current Joey who just finished participating at the Under 17 World Cup held in Mexico in June/July.

Hernan was born on 19th October 1994 in Argentina’s capital Buenos Aires and is a versatile player who can play on either wing. He has lots of potential and for the past season has been with the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) in Canberra, which competed in the National Youth League.

Hernan played in most of their games during the past season and caught the attention of Joeys coach Jan Verslei-

jen, prompting selection for the squad which travelled to Mexico for the Under 17 World Cup.

However, opportunities to impress for the Joeys have been hampered as he had trouble getting clearance from Argentina to play for Australia.

Now he turns his attention to gaining an A-League contract with hopefully one of the two Melbourne sides, either Victory or Heart.

Although both were born in South America these cousins are committed to The Green And Gold, and I sat down with the two boys to talk about their experiences, family, the future and all things football.

Earliest football memory?

CC: My first training session. I was six years old with Brimbank Soccer Club.

HE: Playing park football in Argentina as a four year old.

Football idols?

CC: Carlos Tevez and Leo Messi.

HE: Leo Messi and Juan Roman Riquelme.

Goal in football career?

CC: Play in the highest league.

HE: Play professionally overseas.

Which league would you prefer?

CC: English Premier League.

What made you want to play football?

CC: My Dad. He inspired me to play.

HE: In Argentina its part of the culture to play football.

Which club do you wish to play for?

CC: Arsenal.

He: Barcelona.

What are your strengths?

CC: My speed and long range shooting.

HE: My speed, touch and awareness.

What are you weaknesses?

CC: My left foot.

HE: My left foot and my aggression.

Blood Oath United

Football Family: Cousins Christopher Christaldo and Hernan Espindola have bright futures ahead of them.

Are you too aggressive?

HE: Nah, not aggressive enough.

How well is the current season progressing in the Victorian Premier League(VPL) and how was the National Youth League(NYL) as in your performances?

CC: VPL- I’m happy. I’m doing well. In the NYL I only played three games towards the end of the season.

HE: All pretty good. I could have done better in the world cup. In the NYL I started most games.

Do you do anything different or special in training to improve as a player?

CC: Not really.

HE: Not really.

Do you do anything different or special in training to impress the coach/manager?

CC: To do something different than what the others do. Try and not be a boring winger.

HE: To try and be different than the others.

Do you feel pressure to perform? If so from who?

CC: Yeah from Dad.

Hernan chirped up with Yeah it’s always the Dads.

HE: No. I don’t even get nervous.

Even against Brazil?

HE: No.

Christopher added He has always

been like that.

Are you happy with your current club and situation?

CC: Yes. I am in the highest Victorian program available.

HE: I leave the AIS at the seasons end and I’m hoping to get picked by an A-League club.

What was your reaction when you found out that Hernan had been selected to go to Mexico?

CC: I was happy for him. But at the same time I wish I was selected and could represent my country too.

DQ: You have been selected to go to Asia for an under 18s competition. Can you please elaborate on this competition?

CC: All I know is it’s a mini world cup in China. I’ll find out when I get there.

Do you wish to get selected into other national youth teams like Hernan did?

CC: Yes. That is my goal.

One of your main strengths is your pace. What did or do you do to improve this area?

CC: It’s in me. It’s always has been in me. I do sit-ups to get stronger.

Despite being only 16 you have been playing regularly for VTC in the VPL this season. You must be pleased with the amount of game time at a young age?

CC: Yeah. It’s quite an achievement as a 16 year old in the VPL. You don’t see that often.

You played a part in all games at the recent U17 World Cup for the Joeys. What did you learn from the experience?

HE: There are a lot of quality players. Nothing special though. They are not much better.

What was the main differences between you Joeys and the rest of the teams in Mexico?

HE: Preparation. We didn’t have the best preparation. We stayed in camp and didn’t have any international tours.

You are currently with the AIS, have you had offers from A-League or overseas clubs? If so who?

HE: No offers, only talks. I trained with Melbourne Heart and with Melbourne Victory this week.

Do you want to remain in Melbourne?

HE: Yeah I want to stay in Melbourne but for development I might have to go somewhere else.

I hear that you are pretty good at EA SPORTS FIFA on the PS3. What can you tell us about that?

HE: Its natural talent haha.

CC: I can beat you. I beat you yesterday.

Having your father and uncle Victor around would have been a great influence on your career. What has he taught you?

HE: To play proper football. Improved my technique.

CC: To enjoy the game. To be hungry for success. To have passion for the game.

Your father and uncle Victor played in South America. Is that something you want to do in your career?

CC: Yeh. It will be nice to travel back home to play in front of both families.

Would you consider playing for Argentina or Paraguay if you got the opportunity?

HE: Nah stick to the Green And Gold.

CC: Green And Gold.

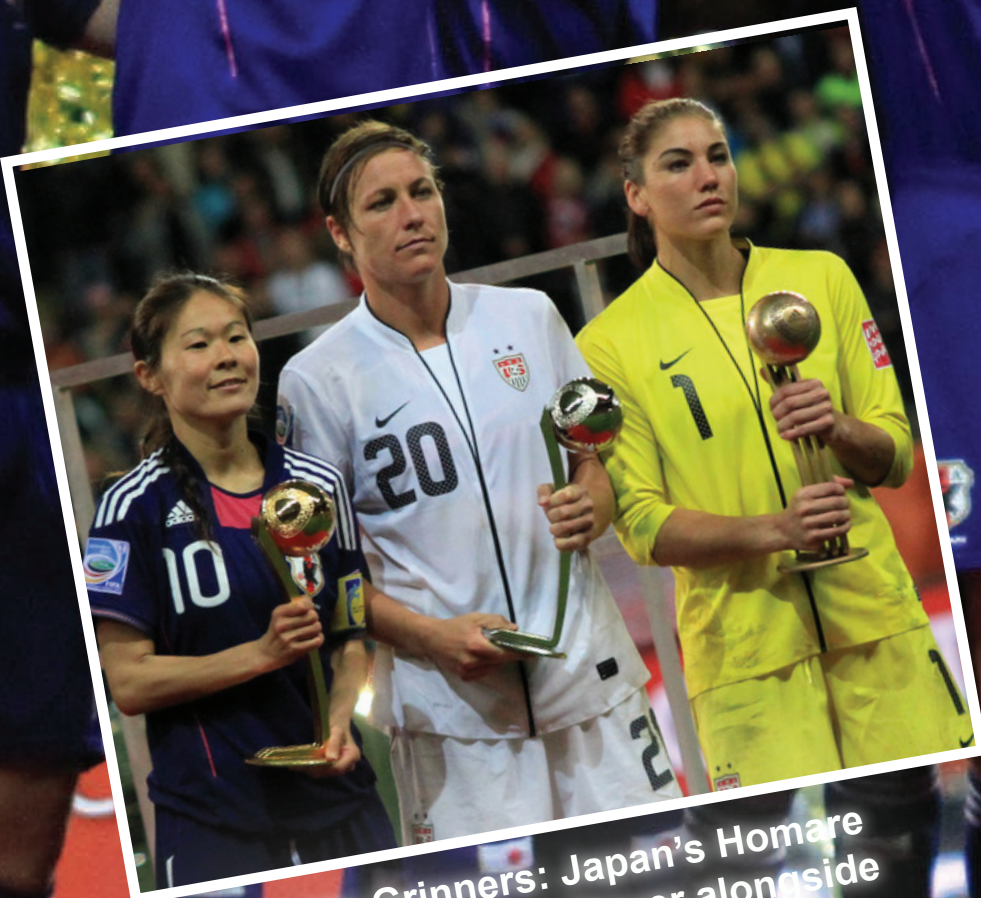
Many thanks for your time and best of luck with the future.



Ace photographer ANN ODONG brings you all the glory from the women's finale in Frankfurt.



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Winners are Grinners: Japan's Homare Sawa is awarded Best Player alongside heartbroken American pair of Abby Wambach (Top Scorer) and Hope Solo (Best Keeper).



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Joan Wallace, Gus Macleod, Tanya Wallace, Alistair Wallace. Photo: DARRYL KENNEDY.

Confronting times for Langwarrin

MACKENZIE AT LARGE

With Craig MacKenzie

TRENT Fairclough stood quietly alongside Gus Macleod last Tuesday afternoon staring grimly out over Lawton Park, tears welling up then slipping slowly down his cheeks.

Fairclough is a hard man, a man who doesn't readily wear his heart on his sleeve but the events of the day and the vividness of his memories formed an irresistible combination.

Just over an hour earlier Fairclough was one of around 800 mourners shoehorned into the Western Port Christian Family Church in Tyabb where Macleod was one of the pallbearers.

It was as if every soccer club on the peninsula and beyond had come to farewell local football icon, Stephen William Wallace, 54-year-old former Langwarrin player, coach, president, life member, club council representative, Bayside League referee and bloody decent man who had died suddenly.

"Big Wal" as he was affectionately known had strode the soccer stage on the peninsula with aplomb for three decades.

He had arrived from Rathcoole, Newtonabbey in Northern Ireland in the early 1980s and his mate

Eddie Donald had introduced him to Langwarrin soccer club, a relationship that quickly turned into an obsession.

Wallace was an inaugural member of a council liaison committee formed some years back to represent every soccer club under the Frankston council umbrella.

He could have been excused for being parochial like so many of us and simply concentrating on forwarding his own club's ambition but Wallace saw the big picture and understood the power of collective bargaining.

That liaison committee's endeavours have played a part in some serious council and state government money being approved for ground and pavilion improvements throughout the area, none more so than the \$1.2 million grant given to Baxter soccer club and transformed into magnificent clubrooms that were opened recently.

Wallace also was co-founder of the Bayside sub junior leagues along with former Baxter president and current reserves coach Colin Nicholson.

If a man's funeral makes a statement about his impact on others then Wallace's funeral was a tour de



Langwarrin players line up against Altona Magic last week and honour Steve Wallace. Photo: DARRYL KENNEDY

force of the vastness of his reach.

His death comes at a time when his beloved Langwarrin faces its greatest threat to its State One status.

Questions are being asked as to whether the current playing group is strong enough to stave off relegation and I'm not confident that they are committed enough and hard enough to win the battle ahead.

Their 3-2 home loss to Altona Magic the other week was mired in controversy because the match officials missed the glaring handball involved in Altona's second goal and ignored the home team's off-side claims over the visitors' third.

But those incidents were merely smokescreens that were not thick enough to hide the feeble efforts of some Langwarrin players.

Their lack of keenness for the contest was exposed as they allowed themselves to be battered from pillar to post while offering little resistance.

Wallace would not have enjoyed that. He put a lot of time, thought and effort into his club's rise from provincial obscurity to peninsula powerhouse and deserved so much more than players damaging the Langwarrin brand with such an insipid display.

His commitment to his club was never in question and if his passion could be translated onto the pitch then State Two South-East would not loom so large on the horizon. Goodness knows what Macleod makes of it all. It was neither the time nor the place to raise the topic last Tuesday.

This already has been Langwarrin's worst season this century for a number of reasons, most of them emanating from off the pitch.

And there is no immediate respite in sight.

Jamie Mac's goal spree
JAMIE MacLaren can't stop scoring goals and he was at it

again recently, this time in a cup final two Saturdays back.

The teenager scored Blackburn's only goal in normal time in the Lancashire Senior Cup Final against Preston North End before topping that effort by steering home the winning penalty in the shootout.

The final was held at the County Ground in Leyland and finished 1-1 after 90 minutes after MacLaren had given Rovers the lead with a fine second-half strike before Iain Hume headed home the equaliser in the 73rd minute.

Preston supremo Phil Brown fielded a very experienced side and there was no place in his squad for Bailey Wright. More's the pity as Wright and MacLaren would have created history by being the first Victorians to square up to each other in this event.

By the way, Wright turned 19 last Thursday while MacLaren turned 18 the following day.

With Rovers' senior squad fine

tuning their pre-season by competing in a tournament in Hong Kong, coach Gary Bowyer named a youthful line-up with just captain Gavin Gunning having any league experience.

But matchwinning efforts by MacLaren and Rovers keeper Matty Urwin who saved two penalties in the shootout saw the youngsters emerge triumphant and add the Senior Cup to the Barclay's Premier Reserve League North trophy they won at the end of last season.

MacLaren then found himself heading off to Ibrox to face Rangers in a friendly at Murray Park last week. The Gers won 2-1 but the youngster again was Blackburn's goalscorer.

That no doubt gave him a real buzz because he's a mad Celtic fan. That never was more evident than when he took time off to go to the Celtic-Wolves friendly the following night.

He even had a friend take a pre-match photo of him wearing a Celtic strip among the assembling green and white hordes.

Not content with that MacLaren then posted the photo on his facebook page. How prophetic an act that was remains to be seen.

A current Celtic player, Lysterfield's Jackson Irvine, also has been among the goals and continued his fine form in the under-19s 2-1 away win last week against Sunderland.

A corner was swung over to the back post and central midfielder Irvine rose high to head past the Sunderland keeper. He too got a buzz from that effort judging by his facebook post shortly after the game.

He clearly enjoys beating English Premier League teams.

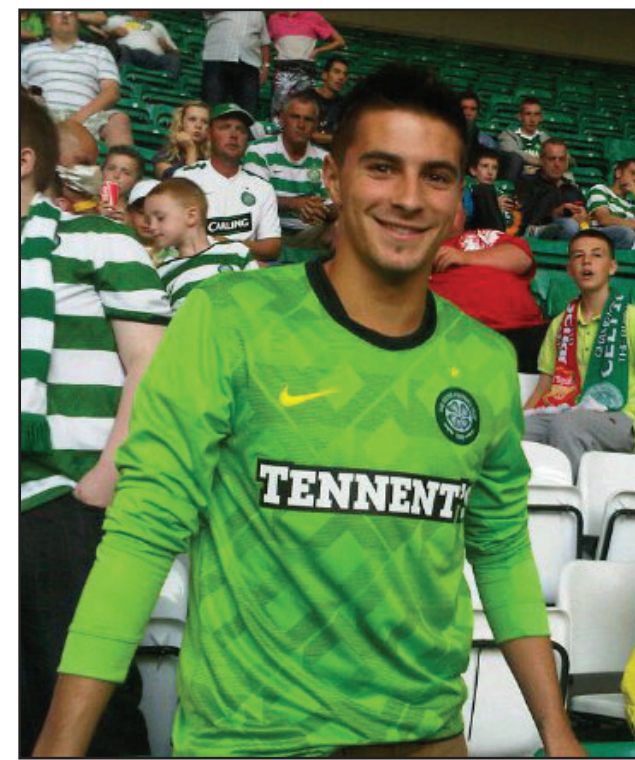
A week in the life of Jamie MacLaren...




Let's score the opener in the Lancashire Senior Cup Final;



Let's set off on an elaborate celebration after slotting home the winner in the penalty shootout;



Let's celebrate scoring against Rangers by watching the 'Tic in action in a friendly against Wolves.



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Victorian State & Provisional Leagues - Round 16

State & Provi Round 17 Fixtures

State NW 2
Geelong to Westgate
Stead Park Reserve Fri 5 Aug KO 8:30PM
Altona City v Brunswick City
HC Kim Reserve
Ballarat Red Devils v Whittlesea Ranges FC
Trekardo Park
Banyule City v Altona East Phoenix
Yallambie Park Res...
Werribee City v FC Clifton Hill
Galvin Park Reserve
Williamstown v Moreland City
JT Gray Reserve

Doncaster Rovers v Noble Park Utd
Anderson Park Fri 5 Aug KO 8:30PM
Casey Comets v Eastern Lions
Comets Stadium
Dandenong City v Heatherton Utd
Frank Holohan Soccer Reserve
Knox City v Box Hill United
Egan Lee Reserve
Morwell Pegasus v Diamond Valley Utd
Ronald Reserve
South Springvale v Malvern City
Warner Reserve

Cairnlea v Sunbury Utd
Cairnlea Park
Avondale Heights v Yarraville Glory
Doyle Street Reserve
Geelong Rangers v La Trobe University
Myers Reserve
Hume Utd v Maribymong Greens
Laura Douglas Reserve
Sydenham Park v Melbourne University
Keilor Lodge Reserve
Whittlesea Utd v Keilor Park
Thomas Street Recreational Reserve

Berwick City v Mornington
 Jack Thomas Reserve
Doveton v Peninsula Strikers
 Waratah Reserve
Waverley Wanderers v Nunawading City FC
 Carlson Avenue Res...
Frankston Pines v Fitzroy City
 Monterey Reserve Sat 6 Aug KO 7:00PM
North Caulfield v Croydon City Arrows
 Caulfield Park Sun 7 Aug KO 3:00PM
Kingston City v Old Scotch
 The Grange Reserve Mon 8 Aug KO 8:30PM

Corio v North City Lions
Hume Reserve, Geelong
FC Strathmore v Western Eagles
Strathnaver Reserve
Laverton Park v North Sunshine Eagles
Laverton Park Reserve
Northern Falcons v Essendon Utd
Hayes Park
South Yarra v Surf Coast
Fawkner Park (North Pavilion)
Sporting Whittlesea FC v Westvale
RGC Cook Reserve

Warragul Utd v Lyndale Utd
Baxter Park (Warragul)
Skye Utd v Hampton Park United Sparrows
Skye Recreational Reserve
Monash University v Brandon Park
Monash University
Old Camberwell Grammar v Beaumaris
Deepond Park
Sandringham SC v Old Melburnians
Spring St Oval
Springvale City v Mooroolbark
Ross Reserve

Elwood City v Northern Roosters
Elwood Park
Epping City v West Preston
Duffy Street Reserve
Melbourne City v Melbourne Tornado
Edwards Reserve
Moreland Utd v Lalor Utd
Moomba Park Reserve
Plenty Valley Lions v Bell Park
Sycamore Reserve
Upfield v Hoppers Crossing
Gibb Reserve

Monbulk v Keysborough
Monbulk Recreation Fri 5 Aug KO 8:30PM
Ashburton United v Boroondara Eagles
Ashburton Park
Casey Kings v Bayside Argonauts
Betula Park
Caulfield United Cobras SC v Riversdale
Victory Park
Endeavour Utd v Uni. of Melbourne
Reema Reserve
Seaford Utd v Old Carey
North Seaford Reserve

Heidelberg Stars v Balmoral FC
 Cardledge Reserve
Meadow Park Eagles v Brunswick Zebras
 Gladstone Park Reserve
Moreland Wolves v Mill Park
 Reddish Reserve
Watsonia Heights v Essendon Royals
 Gabonia Reserve
Youth Utd v Darebin Utd
 Seth Raistrick Reserve
Melton Phoenix FC v Brimbank Stallions
 MacPhersons Park Sat 6 Aug KO 7:00PM

Middle Park FC v Whitehorse Utd
Albert Park Field 16
Noble Park v Eltham Redbacks FC
Norman Luth Reserve
Collingwood City v Old Trinity Grammarians
Kevin Bartlett Reserve
Rowville Eagles v Baxter
Park Ridge Reserve
White Star Dandenong v East Bentleigh
Greaves Reserve
Old Brighton Grammarians v Brighton
Dendy Park

[illegible]

Seniors	STATE SOUTH EAST 3							Reserves
Croydon City Arrows 1 (J Phengrasamy) Berwick City 3 (OA Mejias J O'Halloran J Ashby), Fitzroy City Doveton Peninsula Strikers 0 Waverley Wanderers 3, Nunawading City FC 1 Kingston City 2, Mornington 5 (N Waite 3 C Stewart Own Goal) Frankston Pines 1	Croydon City Arrows 6 (S Rashidi S Vukicevic 2 AT Gatt D Fowler P Brock) Berwick City 1, Fitzroy City Doveton , Peninsula Strikers 2 Waverley Wanderers 1, Nunawading City FC 1 Kingston City 1, Mornington 6 Frankston Pines 2							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT	
Mornington	16	13	0	3	50	17	39	
Kingston City	16	11	3	2	40	15	36	
Old Scotch	15	10	1	4	25	18	31	
Waverley Wanderers	16	7	3	6	26	21	24	
Peninsula Strikers	16	6	4	6	30	42	22	
Nunawading City FC	16	6	3	7	20	23	21	
Doveton	15	6	2	7	28	23	20	
North Caulfield	15	5	4	6	24	24	19	
Fitzroy City	15	6	1	8	22	27	19	
Berwick City	16	6	1	9	22	28	19	
Croydon City Arrows	16	4	2	10	27	38	14	
Frankston Pines	16	1	2	13	16	54	5	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT	
Kingston City	16	12	1	3	42	16	37	
Old Scotch	14	10	1	3	35	17	31	
Croydon City Arrows	16	9	2	5	50	34	29	
Waverley Wanderers	16	7	5	4	44	38	26	
Mornington	16	7	3	6	45	33	24	
Doveton	15	7	3	5	29	22	24	
Peninsula Strikers	16	6	4	6	31	31	22	
Fitzroy City	14	6	3	5	25	38	21	
North Caulfield	15	5	3	7	39	35	26	
Berwick City	16	5	2	9	30	42	17	
Nunawading City FC	16	3	3	10	31	49	12	
Frankston Pines	16	1	0	15	19	65	3	

Seniors

PROVI 1 SOUTH EAST

Reserves

Beaumaris 4 Sandringham SC 1, Brandon Park 1 Springvale City 4, Hampton Park United Sparrows Warragul Utd , Lyndale Utd 1 Old Camberwell Grammar 2, Skye Utd 0 Mooroolbark 4 (B Adams 3 A Doughty), Old Melbourneians 5 Monash University 1

Beaumaris 1 Sandringham SC 1, Brandon Park 4 Springvale City 2, Hampton Park United Sparrows Football Club Warragul Utd , Lyndale Utd 1 Old Camberwell Grammar 3, Skye Utd 1 (P Nolan) Mooroolbark 2 (RA Law K Coe), Old Melbourneians 2 Monash University 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T		P	W	D	L	F	A	P	T
Springvale City	16	11	4	1	37	12	37		Mooroolbark	15	11	1	3	54	23	34	
Beaumaris	15	12	0	3	45	27	36		Sandringham SC	15	10	3	2	47	20	31	
Old Melbourneians	16	9	5	2	25	24	32		Old Melbourneians	15	9	3	2	34	14	30	
Mooroolbark	16	7	3	6	40	35	24		Monash University	15	7	5	3	35	18	26	
Warragul Utd	15	7	2	6	30	19	23		Warragul Utd	13	7	2	4	34	26	23	
Sandringham SC	15	7	3	5	33	26	21		Old Camberwell Grammar	14	5	5	4	23	22	20	
Hampton Park United	13	5	5	3	27	27	20		Beaumaris	15	5	5	5	30	31	20	
Old Camberwell Grammar	16	6	2	8	25	28	20		Brandon Park	16	3	5	8	21	14	30	
Brandon Park	16	5	2	9	17	25	17		Skye Utd	15	2	6	7	19	33	12	
Monash University	15	2	4	9	22	42	10		Hampton Park United	12	3	2	7	17	40	11	
Skye Utd	16	2	2	12	23	56	8		Lyndale Utd	14	2	4	8	24	39	10	
Lyndale Utd	15	1	4	10	16	45	7		Springvale City	15	1	3	11	14	45	6	

Seniors	PROVI 2 SOUTH EAST	Reserves
Riversdale 2 Old Carey 1, Boroondara Eagles Endeavour Utd , Keysborough 1 (M Juric) Caulfield United Cobras SC 1, Ashburton United 2 (MM Grogan JA Clemson) Seaford Utd 2, Uni. of Melbourne 2 Casey Kings 0, Bayside Argonauts 1 Monbulk 2		Riversdale 0 Old Carey 1, Boroondara Eagles Endeavour Utd , Keysborough 0 Caulfield United Cobras SC 3, Uni. of Melbourne 0 Casey Kings 0, Bayside Argonauts 1 Monbulk 0

Seniors	PROVI 3 SOUTH EAST							Reserves							
East Benteigh 0 Whitehorse Utd 3, Baxter 2 Noble Park 3, Rowville Eagles 1 Collingwood City 0, Brighton 2 (N Ormond S Birk) Old Trinity Grammarians 1, Middle Park FC 2 (M Furness N Meade) Old Brighton Grammarians 0, Eltham Redback FC 3 White Star Dandenong 0							East Benteigh 2 (M Draga K Sfrantzis) Whitehorse Utd 4, Baxter 2 Noble Park 1, Rowville Eagles 0 Collingwood City 0, Brighton 2 (O Lewis M Shaw) Old Trinity Grammarians 1, Middle Park FC 0 Old Brighton Grammarians 0, Eltham Redback FC 4 White Star Dandenong 2								
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT		P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Middle Park FC	16	14	0	2	63	12	42	Old Brighton Grammarians	16	13	2	1	44	19	41
Collingwood City	16	14	0	2	48	13	42	Collingwood City	16	11	4	1	57	17	37
Whitehorse Utd	16	12	1	3	39	19	37	Middle Park FC	16	10	4	2	47	20	34
Old Brighton Grammarians	16	9	2	5	44	29	29	Baxter	16	9	2	5	51	37	29
Rowville Eagles	16	8	2	6	33	28	26	Whitehorse Utd	16	8	1	7	40	35	25
Brighton	16	6	2	8	29	32	20	Brighton	16	7	2	7	28	38	23
Baxter	16	6	1	9	31	35	19	Old Trinity Grammarians	16	7	1	8	30	29	22
White Star Dandenong	16	6	1	9	27	46	19	Eltham Redback FC	16	5	3	8	23	36	18
Old Trinity Grammarians	16	5	2	9	30	46	17	Rowville Eagles	16	5	2	9	25	42	17
Noble Park	16	5	2	9	32	49	17	White Star Dandenong	16	4	0	12	36	48	12
Eltham Redback FC	16	3	2	11	18	45	11	East Benteigh	16	1	5	10	23	51	8
East Benteigh	16	0	1	15	16	56	1	Noble Park	16	2	2	12	23	55	5



Business end of season dawns for weekend warriors

By Paul Mavroudis

Moreland City still leads **State League 2 North-West**, after ending the six match unbeaten run of Altona City with a 1-0 win. Second placed Whittlesea Ranges are two points behind, after they could only manage a 1-1 draw with bottom placed Banyule. It was Banyule's sixth draw of the season, and they are yet to win a game. A Jasmin Ikanovic hatrick helped Williamstown overcome a 2-1 halftime deficit, to beat Clifton Hill 4-2 and move out of the relegation zone. On Thursday night Moreland and Whittlesea will meet in a catch up game that if Moreland can win, will take them a long way towards promotion.

Dandenong City has one hand on the **State League 2 South-East** title, after beating Malvern City 1-0 at Kooyong. With six games to play, City are now eight points clear of second placed Malvern. Third placed Eastern Lions failed to make the most of Malvern's loss, drawing 1-1 with Doncaster Rovers, while Box Hill United and Casey Comets also drew 1-1 letting Malvern off the hook for the time being. Knox City picked up its second win of the season, with a 1-0 win over Diamond Valley United, but they still trail tenth placed Doncaster Rovers by seven points. South Springvale's 5-2 win over Noble Park United gives them a six point buffer over 11th placed Heatherton United.

Keilor Park's lead in **State league 3 North-West** is out to eight points, after they had a 3-0 win over Hume United and second placed Avondale Heights lost 1-0 to La Trobe University. Leonardo Correa scored four goals in Melbourne University's 5-1 rout of Cairnlea to move up to sixth place on an increasingly crowded midtable – while Keilor Park has

just about sewn up promotion, just six points separates second from tenth. The bottom two sides, Maribyrnong Greens and Geelong Rangers, just about assured themselves of relegation to the provisional league, after playing out a 4-4 draw which leaves both sides four games from safety and needing nothing short of a miracle to survive.

Mornington remain three points clear on top of **State League 3 South-East** after beating bottom placed Frankston Pines 5-1, with Nick Waite scoring a hatrick against his old club. Kingston City came from a goal down to beat Nunawading City and keep hold of second place. Waverley Wanderers moved into fourth after a 3-0 win against Peninsula Strikers, while Berwick City's 3-1 win at Croydon City saw Berwick move five points clear of Croydon in the relegation battle. The result of the the crucial Old Scotch vs North Caulfield match was not available before this column went to print.

A 91st minute goal to Romano Pally saw North City Lions beat Sporting Whittlesea 2-1, a result which saw Sporting fall from first to third in **Provisional League 1 North-West**. The league's new leader is North Sunshine Eagles, whose 3-2 win over fellow promotion aspirant Corio sees them hold top spot by a point from South Yarra, who beat Essendon United 4-2 with Stephen Noade bagging a hatrick. Last placed Western Eagles revived their chances of surviving the drop, after they beat Northern Falcons 3-0, setting up a crunch match with third last Strathmore next week.

The top two sides in **Provisional League 1 South-East** both had comfortable wins to keep well clear of the chasing sides. Spring-



Williamstown's Jasmin Ikanovic scored a hat-trick with 3 of the best against Clifton Hill on the way to a 4-2 win. Photo: ANITA MILAS

vale City beat Brandon Park 4-1, while Beaumaris won by the same scoreline against Sandringham. The bottom three sides – Monash University, Skye United and Lynedale United – all lost, just about confirming the relegation battle will be fought between the three sides. The catch up round in early September could prove pivotal, with many sides in this division having games in hand.

In **Provisional League 2 North-West**, William Sismanis and Kon

Tsioukis, each scored hatricks in West Preston's 7-2 win over Melbourne City, to keep their side two points ahead of Moreland United at the top of the table, after United also had a win, 3-1 against Melbourne Tornado. Hoppers Crossing's 3-0 win over Plenty Valley Lions sees them round out the top three, three points further back. Northern Roosters earned a valuable point in a scoreless draw with Epping City, but they could find themselves in the relegation zone next week when the bottom two



Williamstown goalie Nikola Kasutic displays his cat-like qualities and makes a leap for the ball. Photo: ANITA MILAS

sides, Melbourne City and Melbourne Tornado, meet at Edwards Reserve in Spotswood next round.

Provisional League 2 South-East's match of the round was between third placed Keysborough and second placed Caulfield Cobras. The match finished 1-1, allowing Monbulk to open up a four point gap at the top after they had a 2-1 win at Bayside Argonauts. Seaford snatched a draw from the jaws of defeat with a 96th minute equaliser away to Ash-

burton., while the match between Boroondara Eagles and Endeavour United was postponed due to the poor state of the ground.

In **Provisional League 3 North-West**, a Nasir Yussuf hatrick – including an 86th minute winner – helped Heidelberg Stars come from behind to beat Essendon Royals 3-2, and overtake them into second place on the table. Moreland Wolves scoreless draw with Watsonia Heights saw them miss an opportunity to close the gap on the top three, though they are still only four points off a promotion place.

Middle Park has taken over top spot in **Provisional League 3 South-East** on goal difference after their win over Old Brighton, and Collingwood City's 1-0 loss at Rowville Eagles, just their second loss of the season. At the bottom end of the division, 11th placed Eltham Redbacks 3-0 win over Whit Star Dandenong was matched by 10th placed Noble Parks 3-2 win at Baxter, which sees the gap between the two sides remain at six points. The two sides meet in round 17.

An finally to the **Metro leagues**. In the North-West, Sunshine Heights still lead that division despite a 6-2 loss to Tullamarine Jets; in the South-East, Harrisfield Hurricanes took advantage of Aston Athletic's 3-0 loss at Ringwood City, by beating Dandenong Wolves 3-1 to move three points clear at the top; and the in the Central, Albert Park beat Altona North 3-2 to open up a five point gap at the top of the table.



Dog Day Afternoon: Action from the Clifton Hill and Williamstown game. Photo: ANITA MILAS



In safe hands: Williamstown goalie Nikola Kasutic. Photo: ANITA MILAS

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Clash of strip prevents match from going ahead

By Niki Cook

Round 16 of the Women's Premier League was one of the lowest scoring of the season, with the four matches producing just eleven goals, although every team did manage to score.

It was also a round with some controversy, as one match failed to happen due to a clash of strip. In the matches played there were wins for Sandringham, Box Hill and Doncaster, while South Melbourne Women's and Altona City split the points. With two rounds left to go, it's tight at the top, with just two points separating the top four teams.

Sandringham returned to the top of the WPL ladder with victory in the midweek game. With the Emerging Athlete Program having inflicted one of Sandringham's four defeats last time the sides met, this was a potential banana skin that the ladder leader will have been pleased to avoid. With both teams scoring once in the first half, the match was delicately poised, but it was Sandringham that found the breakthrough when the sides returned to the field. Claudia Dimasi scored for the EAP, while Stephanie Tanti and Emma Donovan were on target for Sandringham.

Box Hill United boosted its chances of maintaining a spot in the top four with a win over traditional rival Casey Comets at Wembley Park on Friday night. The two teams have enjoyed many a fierce battle over the years, having dominated the league in the early years of the last decade, and matches between the two are generally still hard fought affairs. This proved no different, which should be little surprise, given that the teams started the day separated by just three points on the ladder. Both sides found the net once in the first half, but it was the home side that found the vital breakthrough after the interval, enabling it to take all three points with a 2-1 victory. The win was United's tenth of the season, and a potentially crucial one with the regards to shoring up a finals' berth. It lifts Box Hill to 33 points, level with third-placed Casey, behind on the narrowest of goal difference margins; more importantly, it opens up a four point gap to fifth-placed Heidelberg.

Bundoora United was due to play Heidelberg United at Epping Soccer Stadium on Saturday afternoon, but the match did not happen reportedly due to a clash of strip. With both teams' first choice strip consisting of black and yellow, Heidelberg was apparently unable to produce a suitable change strip for its senior side, and so the match did not take place. Bundoora would seem to be likely to emerge from the situation with a 3-0 forfeit victory, which would certainly benefit their chances of staying in the WPL, but at the time of writing there was no result available. If a forfeit result was declared, it would mean an organisational mishap putting a severe dent in Heidelberg's chances of making the finals.

Altona City denied South Melbourne Women's a return to the top of the WPL ladder and gave its campaign to avoid relegation a bit of a boost with a 1-1 draw at HC Kim Reserve on Sunday afternoon. Altona has proved something of a bogey side for South this season, having defeated it last time the two sides met, and it succeeded in frustrating it once again.



Lara Seeger (Country) is in possession, with Karerina Dixon (Rovers) and Btittany Elsen hot on her heels. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Alex Nikodijevic (Rovers) beats Abigail Livingstone (Country) to the ball. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

Clare Duck gave the visiting side the lead early in the match, finding the net after just six minutes, but Ellvana Curo squared the ledger on the stroke of half time. With neither side able to break the deadlock after the interval, the points were shared. The result leaves South second, a point behind Sandringham which was due to play on Monday and a point ahead of both Casey and Box Hill. For Altona, things still look rather bleak, as it is three points plus goal difference adrift of safety, with two of its three remaining games being against sides in the top four.

Doncaster Rovers' fate may already have been sealed, but it seems determined to end its WPL campaign on a positive note. It chalked up its second win in as many games, with a 2-1 triumph over VCL Country on Sunday af-

ternoon. Doncaster took the lead midway through the first half, only for Country to equalise just five minutes later for a half-time score of 1-1. The match seemed destined for a draw, but Rovers grabbed all three points late in the piece, with a goal two minutes from time. Doncaster has had a much improved second half of the season, with three wins in its last five matches, and while it remains tenth on the ladder, it is now just one point behind the EAP. VCL Country, one of the two teams that cannot be relegated regardless of where it finishes, is now seven points adrift at the foot of the ladder.

The final match of the round was scheduled to take place on Monday night at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex, between Sandringham and Ashburton.

The penultimate round of the

WPL gets begins on Wednesday night at Paisley Park, when South Melbourne Women's looks to tighten its grip on second spot on the ladder, and the double chance that accompanies it, when it hosts the EAP. Friday night at Wembley Park features a match between two finals contenders, when Box Hill United and Sandringham meet, with the latter having to back up after a four day break.

Saturday afternoon sees Heidelberg United making a long trip to Morwell to take on VCL Country and Latrobe City Sports Club, while in the evening South Melbourne Women's and Doncaster Rovers clash at Paisley Park. Sunday features two games, with Ashburton hosting Bundoora United at Ashburton Park, and Casey Comets taking on Altona City at Comets Stadium.



Carla Versace (Country) gets in ahead of Katerina Dixon (Doncaster Rovers). Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

WPL RESULTS

Womens Premier League:

Box Hill United 2
Casey Comets 1

Altona City 1
South Melbourne 1

Doncaster Rovers 2
VCL Country 1

Res:

Box Hill United
Casey Comets

Bundoora Utd 2
Heidelberg Utd 1

Altona City 0
South Melbourne 4

WPL LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sandringham	17	11	2	4	34	13	35
South Melb	17	10	4	3	48	17	34
Casey Comets	18	10	3	5	38	23	33
Box Hill United	18	10	3	5	43	29	33
Heidelberg Utd	16	9	2	5	25	25	29
Ashburton	17	7	3	7	27	25	24
Bundoora Utd	17	6	5	6	26	24	23
Altona City	17	6	3	8	20	28	21
Emerging Ath	17	4	2	11	33	48	14
Doncaster R	17	4	1	12	18	42	13
VCL Country	17	3	0	14	14	52	6

WPL Next Round

South Melbourne v Emerging Athlete
Paisley Park
Wed 3 Aug KO 7:30PM

Box Hill United v Sandringham SC
Wembley Park
Fri 5 Aug KO 8:30PM

VCL Country v Heidelberg Utd
Latrobe City Sport
Sat 6 Aug KO 1:00PM

South Melbourne v Doncaster Rovers
Paisley Park
Sat 6 Aug KO 7:30PM

Ashburton v Bundoora Utd
Ashburton Park
Sun 7 Aug KO 3:00PM

Casey Comets v Altona City
Comets Stadium
Sun 7 Aug KO 3:00PM

WPL RESERVES LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Box Hill United	13	12	1	0	50	9	37
South Melb	14	9	4	1	46	16	31
Sandringham	13	8	1	4	27	11	25
Casey Comets	14	6	2	6	30	24	20
Bundoora Utd	14	5	4	5	17	18	19
Ashburton	13	5	0	8	24	28	15
Heidelberg Utd	14	3	3	8	20	37	12
Altona City	14	2	3	9	10	36	9
Doncaster R	13	1	2	10	9	54	5
Emerging Ath	0	0	0	0			0
VCL Country	0	0	0	0			0

Port end Magic run as Stars & Zebras play out draw



SL1

Mem Suleyman

All square for promotion pushers Stars and Zebras

This was the match of the round as Whittlesea coming of a derby loss to arch rivals Bulleen on Monday night played host to fellow high flyers Southern Stars who with a game in hand were two points clear of Whittlesea, three points for either team would have gone a long way in determining the SL1 championship.

It was the Stars who came out all guns blazing as the clubs leading goal scorer from last season Berkan Sakaci found himself on the scoresheet for the first time this season courtesy of a sharp cross from Joe Di Iorio which gave the Stars the deserved lead on the 15th minute mark. Southern Stars continued to dominate the first half all the way to the end as Alan Mulcahy, Joe Di Iorio, Colin Quirk and Chris Greechan all sent shots just wide or over the net.

The second half is were the game changed, on the 50th minute a penalty was awarded to Whittlesea as the referee had seen Stars defender Luke Fitzpatrick handle the ball. As a result the penalty was converted by SL1's leading goal scorer Vincent Faherty. Southern Stars manager Dean Hennessey said "it did not look like a penalty, Luke swore it hit his stomach anyway I was not as close as the referee". Following the goal Whittlesea piled on a massive amount of pressure and Stars completely struggled.

In the 75th minute it was Whittlesea scoring again after a build up play that was finished off by man-of-the-match Ersin Kaya who beat his marker at the back post to head home. Following the goal Whittlesea welcomed back Fayed Hussaini who had been missing for 6 weeks due to injury, his run and fight nearly won the Zebras the game as one of his shots hit the post only minutes after his arrival.

Southern Stars were shocked and started committing numbers forward. Stars defender Darragh Ryan was involved in a neat build up play were he struck a 20 metre pile driver that left Whittlesea keeper helpless and Whittlesea players screaming. There were massive shouts for handball which went unheard from the officials 2-2 in the 80th minute.

For the last ten minutes both teams played out a well fought draw. Ask about his teams performance Stars manager Dean Hennessey said "Overall I am happy with the draw we should have won but what can you do we will take the draw. We are playing really good football but obviously can't finish. We have five of the remaining seven games at home and we are playing for the championship. If we win all our games we should be fine"

Roach inspires Port to end Magic run

This was another one of those games in SL1 that could have gone either way. Both teams were full of confidence particularly Altona Magic - unbeaten in five games. They would have liked their chances as Port Melbourne narrowly went down to Melbourne Victory on Tuesday night, 3 games in 8 days for the Sharks.

Second-half goals from Darryl Roach propelled Port Melbourne clear at the top of the table at the expense of rivals Altona. In the 75th minute Roach sparked a previously



Marc Olsen (Pt Melb) is brought down by John Stojcevski (Altona Magic).
PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Port Melbourne's Sam Arico stretches to contro; the ball against Rinor Muriqi (Altona Magic)
PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

soporific match into life following a neat setup by Nicholas Kalambokis following a mistake in the middle from the Altona midfield.

As Altona pressed forward and looked for chances they could not find a way through the Port Melbourne defence who had stood tall all day.

Ten minutes after his first goal, Port made it two when Roach turned home a neat finish from just outside the six-yard box.

Vital win for Port Melbourne as they continue their quest for the SL1 title. Huge disappointment for the brave Altona as the lose all but ensured they wont be back in the VPL next year.

Vale & Warriors share points
Pascoe Vale were keen to snatch three points after their 1-0 lose to high flyers Southern Stars, they hosted their SL1 mid-table rivals North Geelong who were hungry to take something from their long drive to Melbourne.

This match was very evenly balanced throughout the ninety minutes, for a game in which four goals were scored, both keepers did a pretty good job. Pascoe Vale's Codey Larkin made a great lay-out save on a bouncing shot late in the first half, and Warriors Daniel Zilic had a few good reflex saves and wasn't really at fault on either of his goals.

It was the young Warriors that twice took the lead as well set up first half goals to Reha Kurul and Michael Anderson were fired past Vale keeper Larkin only to have

Joseph Youssef and Liam Flynn for Pascoe Vale answer both goals. All goals came from decent passages of play from both teams.

A point each after ninety minutes which may prove to be quite crucial if both sides find themselves on the wrong end of the table come seasons end.

Heo lifts Sunshine to 3-1 win over woeful Blues

Sunshine started this game completing dominating for the first 35 minutes. They were strong and coursing all sorts of problems for Fawkner's defence, if it wasn't for Sunshine's woeful finishing Fawkner may have been a few goals down quite early.

The strong Sunshine opening paid off on the 24th minute as Korean Heo Wookbum struck a well timed drive that hit the bar and end up in the back of the net. Only two minutes later it was a ripping cross by Richard Sexton that found the head of Ben Cogger who finished off a fine Sunshine move.

As Sunshine piled on the pressure, Fawkner finally decided to pass the half way line which resulted in their first and only goal of the game. It was a huge mix up by the Sunshine defence which fell to the feat of Fawkner's Robert Taleveski who finished to remarkably take scores to 2-1 at halftime.

The second half was all Sunshine again and it was Heo Woodburn who finished a sharp Sunshine move. It was a sensational Richie Davani dummy that found the feet



Marc Olsen (right) is the first to congratulate goal scorer Daryl Roach. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

of Heo who wasted no time shooting from the edge of the area low into the bottom corner.

Sunshine are now sitting fourth and this week welcome back club hero Kevin Muscat after serving his suspension following his very controversial tackle on Melbourne Heart's Adrian Zahra in his last A-League game. They host fifth placed Altona who have assured us they are not planning on giving Muscat a welcome back party.

Western Suburbs grab late win over brave Preston

Both teams find themselves on the wrong end of the table and were hungry to snatch all three points. Preston have looked a little better the last couple of weeks under new manager Vlado Vanis but this game would prove no different as they slumped to their eleventh loss of the season.

The West and Preston were scoreless at halftime following a very physical first half with little scoring opportunities. It was the second half when the game erupted as both teams came out hungry for goals. Western Suburbs manager Huss Skenderovic rang in the changes bleeding fresh players in an attempt to take the points. But it was Preston who were on the scoresheet first following a corner from Tony Sterjovski that was finished off by Victorian soccer legend Tony "Nuts" Neceski.

That goal woke up the West as a brace from two imports proved the difference. First up it was Englishman Jason Dodwell on the 75th minute who scraped home a scramble in the Preston box following a nice corner by youngster Mikel Barigos. Five minutes from time it was 16 year old Somalian Deng who took a perfect through pass into the box from captain Josh Kamasz and fired low past goalkeeper Hamid Kamali.

Following the conclusion of the game for the first time Goal Weekly spoke to Western Suburbs manager Huss Skenderovic who said "very tight competition and that shows you the quality of the league. It is really good for football so next week we have another six pointer against Pascoe Vale this time away from home."

SL1 RESULTS
Altona Magic 0 Port Melbourne 2
Fawkner Blues 1 (R Dolevski) Sunshine George Cross 3 (H- Wookbum 2 B Cogger)
Pascoe Vale 2 (J Youssef L Flynn) North Geelong Warriors 2
Whittlesea Zebras 2 Southern Stars 2
Western Suburbs 2 Preston Lions 1
U21s: Altona Magic 3 (D Trajceski S Dimcevski 2) Port Melbourne 4, Fawkner Blues 2 Sunshine George Cross 1, Pascoe Vale 0 North Geelong Warriors 2, Western Suburbs 1 Preston Lions 0, Whittlesea Zebras 1 Southern Stars 3

SL1 LADDER							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Port Melbourne	16	10	4	2	26	13	34
Southern Stars	15	9	3	3	25	17	30
Whittlesea Z	16	8	4	4	27	19	28
Sun George X	16	6	4	6	23	23	22
Altona Magic	16	7	3	6	25	24	21
Pascoe Vale	16	6	2	8	30	21	20
Fawkner Blues	16	6	2	8	19	16	20
Western Sub	16	6	2	8	18	25	20
North Geelong	16	6	2	8	18	26	20
Bulleen Lions	15	5	4	6	17	18	19
Langwarrin	14	4	3	7	18	24	15
Preston Lions	16	4	1	11	21	41	13

SL1 Next Round
Port Melbourne v FC Bulleen Lions <i>SS Anderson Reserve</i> <i>Fri 5 Aug KO 8:30PM</i>
Langwarrin v Whittlesea Zebras <i>Lawton Park Reserve</i> <i>Sat 6 Aug KO 3:00PM</i>
Pascoe Vale v Western Suburbs <i>Hosken Reserve</i> <i>Sat 6 Aug KO 3:00PM</i>
Sthrn Stars v Nth Geelong Warriors <i>Kingston Heath Soccer Complex</i> <i>Sat 6 Aug KO 7:00PM</i>
Preston Lions v Fawkner Blues <i>BT Connor Reserve</i> <i>Sun 7 Aug KO 3:00PM</i>
Sunshine George Cross v Altona Magic <i>Chaplin Reserve</i> <i>Sun 7 Aug KO 3:00PM</i>

SL1 U21 LADDER							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulleen Lions	15	11	0	4	46	17	33
Fawkner Blues	16	9	4	3	35	21	31
Western Sub	16	10	0	6	32	33	30
Pascoe Vale	16	9	1	6	36	29	28
Southern Stars	15	9	1	5	34	30	28
North Geelong	15	8	2	5	27	18	26
Whittlesea Z	16	7	2	7	29	28	23
Langwarrin	14	6	1	7	21	27	19
Sun George X	16	4	2	10	30	44	14
Altona Magic	16	4	3	9	29	37	12
Port Melbourne	16	3	3	10	21	38	12
Preston Lions	15	3	1	11	20	38	10

SHORT PASSES

KEV'S COMEBACK
Kevin Muscat makes his long awaited return to Sunshine George Cross on Sunday when he takes the field in the cut throat game against Altona Magic at Chaplin Reserve. Kevin has gone on to play on a much bigger stage since being introduced as a 15 year old by Ernie Merrick in the 1989/90 National League season. This will be Kevins' first game for Sunshine George Cross since his last game for the club against Bulleen in 1992. Ever since it was announced he was coming back to the club, there has been a lot of interest amongst football fans and Sunshine George Cross is preparing for a bumper crowd at Chaplin Reserve on Sunday. The Sunshine George Cross Football Club appreciates Kevin Muscat's gesture to end his playing days where it all began. The club is holding a Presidents Luncheon prior to the game at 11.30 where a number of dignitaries, including Kevin Muscat will be in attendance. Booking for this function are still open. Tickets are \$35 that includes a three course meal, entry to the game and car park. To book contact Victor Brincat on 0447 549 771.

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS



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SPRINGVALE W EAGLES



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Match Details

Green Gully:

1. Nikola Roganovic, 2. Daniel Jones, 3. Dean Kerr (20. Joshua Pugh 76'), 4. Cameron Drake, 6. Stephen Downes, 7. Jeffrey Fleming, 8. Jason Hayne, 12. Mathew Sanders, 16. Mile Medjedovic, 17. Andy Vargas (10. Graham Hockless), 18. Joel Nikolic (11. Pasquale Vizzari).

Substitutes Not Used: 23. Michael O'farrell, 5. Joel Bistricki
Goals: Hayne (Pen) 36', Fleming 69'

Springvale White Eagles:

23. Nebojsa Vujic, 2. Vojislav Milojevic, 4. Boris Vajic, 5. Jason Corbett, 8. Gordan Mrdic, 16. Dominic D'Angelo, 20. Stojan Milojevic, 22. Daniel Paunov, 21. Dejan Erakovic, 24. James Karanicolas.

MoM: Andy Vargas (Gully)

Crowd: Approx 200 @ Green Gully Reserve

Fleming Stunner Gives The Cavaliers The Points

By Daniel Quinn

Green Gully continued their form from their midweek win over VTC with a 2-0 win over Springvale White Eagles on Saturday at Green Gully Reserve.

Green Gully made one change from their 4-0 win over VTC on Wednesday with Graham Hockless dropping to the bench and Joel Nikolic starting up front. Springvale made 5 changes after receiving a thrashing by Northcote City a fortnight ago. Major outs included Goran Zoric, Colin Woods and goalkeeper/player coach Bojo Jevdjivic.

The first-half wasn't too exciting as Gully controlled most of the possession with White Eagles having five at the back and one up front. The first chance came on 12 minutes when Andy Vargas cut onto his right foot and shot just wide. White Eagles' first chance came on the counter through Dominic D'Angelo who hit his left footed strike over the bar. Gully captain Jeffrey Fleming then had a shot wide on 18 minutes from his left foot.

Either team then couldn't come up with any chances until on 35 minutes when Andy Vargas cut the ball back into the box where Daniel Paunov fouled Mathew Sanders. Not only was a penalty awarded Paunov was given a straight red card for being the last man. Jason Hayne then stepped up to slot past White Eagles keeper Nebojsa Vujic. The score being 1-0 at half-time.

Gully started the second half well with Stephen Downes shooting from close range over the bar. A chance which should have been put away. Mathew Sanders then had two great chances inside two

minutes. First after a long ball from the back he volley it with his left instep just wide. Then after Andy Vargas put a great ball in, he mistimed his finish. The rain then started to come down on an over-cast afternoon in Melbourne.

After the first-half red card to Daniel Paunov White Eagles was left with a 4-4-1 formation with 8 men behind the ball then the loft up to the loan Dejan Erakovic. Green Gully however still controlled possession and created chances with Mathew Sanders yet again fluffing his chances. Sanders had chances from the close range put over either off his foot or his head but lucky for him Springvale were not creating anything.

Green Gully capitalised on their possession with a stunning strike from captain Jeffrey Fleming. After the ball was cut back into the centre he smashed it home from outside the box into the top corner. Fleming not know for his goal scoring ability with a superb finish.

On 76 minutes Gully had the last chance of the game after second half substitute Pasquale Vizzari had a shot saved by White Eagles keeper Nebojsa Vujic after being put through by Gully playmaker Andy Vargas. Sanders then hit the follow up shot way over from the edge of the box. Andy Vargas then got a deserved rest as he came off for Graham Hockless.

Green Gully next travel to Kingston Heath Soccer Complex to face an in form Bentleigh Greens on August 7. Springvale host Heidelberg United at White Eagles Stadium. Both games kick off at 3pm. In the Under 21s Green Gully smashed Springvale 7-0. However White Eagles only had 8 players and went down to 7 after an injury.



Jeff Fleming and Andy Vargas are happy chappies after the former Kiwi international scored one of the goals of the season. Photo: STEVE STAREK



Dejan Erakovic and Dean Kerr contest for header honours. Photo: STEVE STAREK



Top drawer! Jeff Fleming's wonder strike finds its way to the top corner. Photo: STEVE STAREK

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Match Details

Dandenong Thunder:
Webster, Stuart, Rexhepi, S., Harrison, B., Tomic, A., Webster, Scott, Sherbon, L., Azizi, F.(Barnes, J. 46'), Kearny, L., Stott, A. (Korcari, V.46'), Sabanovski, D., Gray, S.

South Melbourne:
Zeneli, Z., Payne, R., O'Dor, S., Vasilevski, D., Recchia, C., Krncevic, J, De Moraes, F. (Matthews, T. 68'), Waterson, T., Weir, S.,(Gasparis, M.81'), Dragicevic,D .(Joryeff, K 76'), Petrovic, S.

Scorers: Krncevic J. 32'

South Fans Love Jesse's Flying Goal

By George Stogiannou

A Jesse Krncevic header gave South Melbourne a precious 1-0 win over Dandenong Thunder at George Andrews reserve in the penultimate round on Saturday afternoon keeping its season alive, and ending the home team's finals bid.

With just three points separating both teams, in a tight field of finals contenders, both teams need the win going into the high stakes contest.

South keeper Zaim Zeneli was mostly an observer in the first half hour of the match as his team had the lion's share of possession against a Thunder side intent on maintaining its defensive shape and not committing players forward. The visitors looked the more threatening without carving out any clear openings.

On the half hour, Krncevic forced a desperate block save from Thunder centre back Shane Rexhepi in the box. It was a warning of things to come as two minutes later the South striker scored from close range with a diving header on the end of a Daniel Vasilevski cross from the left side of the box.

The goal sparked Thunder to attack in the final 15 minutes of the half as it put the visitor's defence under pressure for the first time, creating three clear cut chances to score from direct shots on goal.

Midfielder Liam Kearney headed wide of goal from close range with just the keeper to beat. Striker Ahley Stott then struck a close range shot directly at keeper Zeneli, before fellow striker Luke Sherbon opted for a delicate chip shot over Zeneli only for



Hellas players celebrate Jess Krncevic's sensational winner. Photo: CINDY NITSOS

it to rebound off the crossbar. At the other end, Thunder keeper Stuart Webster saved his team going further behind to another Krncevic goal when he parried an attempted lob just before half time.

Thunder sprung into attack after the break, pushing player coach Steven Gray out of defence into the middle of the park. For the first half hour it had South on the back foot, if not quite defending grimly. Dandenong tried to stretch the South defence by attacking down the flanks feeding crosses into the box, but couldn't create the clear cut chances it produced in the latter part of the first half.

Instead, the best chance of the second half fell to South striker Steven Weir who was

played in behind the Thunder defence only for Webster to produce another fine save to foil him. The final whistle brought relief to the visiting South faithful and disappointed resignation to the Thunder fans.

South Melbourne coach Eddie Krncevic commented afterwards, " It could have gone either way. They had a couple of chances, we had a couple of chances. I thought we were excellent in the first half. We kept the ball well, scored a great goal. We knew that Dandenong were going to come out in the second half and give it their best. They put us under pressure. But I thought we were very disciplined today and it was a good performance. Great

win. I'm very happy with the way the group has reacted in the last two or three weeks and it shows we're up for the chance it give it a big shot."

A disappointed Dandenong Thunder player-coach Steven Gray commented after the match, " It's heartbreaking to fall short after what we've been through with the group of lads together. The group of players battled on." (Gray was referring to the loss of players to injury, and the loss of the coach and key players who left the club in the second half of the season.). Gray praised his players' performance, " They (South) are a good side, and we really put it up to them. There's a big part of me which is quite satisfied, but there's a mas-

sive part of me which is bitterly disappointed we've just fallen short. I'm really proud of the players. They've given me everything since I was put in this position. I'm delighted for them that they've restored their pride because I think they have individually and as a team collectively. I think they've done really well the last few weeks."

In the final round of the season, South play Northcote City in another cut throat math for both teams.

Dandenong Thunder will farewell its tumultuous season away at Oakleigh Cannons.



Jesse Krncevic, Seb Petrovic and Shane Rexhepi fly high to win the header. Photo: CINDY NITSOS



Yessss Jessss! Jesse Krncevic scores with a spectacular diving header. Photo: CINDY NITSOS

HUME CITY

OAKLEIGH CANNONS

Match Details

Hume City:
Kenny Geroh, Steven Pace(Dusko Delic), Isiyen Erdogan, Philip Riccobene, Fabio Delitzia, Adam Nakic(Atila Ofii), Richie Cardozo, Mark Pistininzi, Ross Thompson, Zoran Petrevski, Andy Vlahos.

Subs: Serdar Pir, James Riccobene, Evan Van Der Byl

Oakleigh Cannons:
Peter Zois, Bonel Obradovic, James Cummings, Ramazan Tavsancioglu, Anistidis Drakos, Luke Walker, Frankie Lagana(Dimitri Hatzimouratis), Shaun Ontong, Ricky Diaco(James Robinson), Hayden Doyle, Ante Cicak(Dane Milanovic).

Subs: Daniel Neesham, Craig Goodwin

Goals: Lagana 35' Doyle 80'

Man Of The Match:
Andy Vlahos (Hume City)

Venue: John Ilhan Memorial Reserve

Cannons conquer Hume in blockbuster

By Sacha Pisani

Oakleigh joined Hume at the summit of the Alanic Premier League with one round remaining after a hard fought 2-0 win at the John Ilhan Memorial Reserve on Saturday afternoon.

Goals from Frankie Lagana and Hayden Doyle ensured the minor premiership would be decided in the penultimate round and condemned Hume to their 3rd straight defeat despite a tireless performance from Player/Coach Andy Vlahos.

With Vlahos and Zoran Petrevski looking sharp early on, Hume started off brightly with an early chance falling to Cardozo after a teasing cross from Petrevski but the number 10's header went just wide of the post.

Cardozo was in the thick of action again when his free kick eluded everyone across the penalty area and appeared destined for the bottom corner if it wasn't for the sharp reflexes of Peter Zois who pushed away the shot for a corner.

With the wind at Hume's advantage in the first half, Oakleigh were pressed back into their defensive half for long periods but in the 35th minute against the run of play they took the lead thanks to a well taken goal from Lagana after an impressive overlapping run from Bonel Obradovic. His cross found Lagana at the front post and the midfielder made sure the Cannons would head into the break with a 1-0 lead.

Vlahos began the second half as he did the first with a number of great runs and it wasn't long before he had the chance to restore parity for his side. The former Melbourne Victory player found himself unmarked following a great free kick from Cardozo but his golden chance went begging as he failed to



Frank Lagana puts Oakleigh ahead in the top of the table clash on Saturday. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

test Zois in goals.

Hume continued to pile on the pressure as the second half wore on and were extremely unfortunate not to get themselves on level terms after Fabio Delitzia's header hit the cross bar.

The game started to open up after Delitzia's effort and Oakleigh had a chance to double their lead with 20 minutes remaining but Lagana's glancing header was well saved by Kenny Geroh who had replaced the

suspended Acevski in goals.

Hume again had an opportunity to equalize as some more Vlahos brilliance picked out Cardozo in the box but his effort sailed over the cross bar.

Oakleigh put the result beyond doubt as they doubled their advantage through a stunning Doyle strike in the 80th minute. Geroh had attempted to clear a cross but his effort fell to Doyle who unleashed an amazing half volley that

went flying into the top corner.

Hume had the chance to pull a late goal back but Cardozo's brilliant header forced Zois into an even better save and left the Hume faithful empty handed for the second consecutive home game.

The 2-0 result leaves Oakleigh and Hume tied on 42 points with one round remaining.

The Cannons will welcome Dandenong Thunder to the Jack Edwards Reserve next week knowing

that a win may not be enough to clinch the minor premiership on Sunday afternoon. Hume has a 6 goal better goal difference and that may just hold the key to the premiership.

Hume travel to Knights stadium on Sunday with some confidence despite their recent form slump knowing a win will ultimately clinch the VPL minor premiership ahead of the finals series.



Hume's Issy Erdogan and Ross Thompson join forces to combat Oakleigh's Hayden Doyle. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Oakleigh shot-stopper Peter Zois punches the danger clear as Hume applies the pressure. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

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RICHMOND EAGLES



1

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS



0

Match Details

Richmond: S.Gal,
A.Viola, E.Karahan,
R.Antoniadis, M.Bissinger,
T.Purcell (M.Eterovic 74'),
S.Muirhead, M.Catalano,
N.Marinos (J.Kweiffo-Okai
90'). D.Bonne. M.Ferrante.

Goal: Eterovic 80'

Yellow Cards: Purcell 71'

Red Cards: None

Melbourne Knights:

M. John, S. Romein,
R. Filipovic, T. Uskok,
J. Magdic, K. Vincent, J. Kozic
(J. Franjic 67' (S. Alinejad
68')), A. Colosimo, A. Zilic,
J. Colosimo (Y. Yusuf 67'),
C. Sweeney.

Yellow Cards: None

Red Cards: None

SHORT PASSES

KNIGHTS TO PLAY HEART

The Melbourne Knights are pleased to confirm that a match against Melbourne Heart has been scheduled to take place on Saturday 13th of August, (KO 3pm) at Knights Stadium. In a match touted as a clash between the old and new guard, this is the first time the former National Soccer League Champions will face the A-League new-comers, who will be keen to get a result against their VPL opponents in the lead up to the 2011/12 Hyundai A-League season.

Knights Stadium, once a venue for classic NSL derbies and finals, will play host for the match.

Entry: Adults \$10, Concession \$5,
Under 14 - Free

Eagles still a mathematical chance of finals

By Mark Boric

Richmond hosted Melbourne Knights on Saturday having won five games in a row to maintain a mathematical possibility of reaching the Top Five with just two AVPL games remaining. In the same period the Knights had enjoyed a good run which saw them establish a big points gap on the teams in the relegation zone and ensure their survival. That run came to an end with a 1-3 loss at Dandenong Thunder in a rescheduled game last week, before a midweek Mirabella Cup win over Cobram Victory.

The first half, like the game overall, was a scrappy affair. Both sides struggled to match their best recent form on an overcast day. In the sixth minute the Knights had a chance when Kayne Vincent shot across the goal from the left of the penalty area, with Richmond not threatening the goal until Martin John was made to claim a good cross to the far post by Michael Catalano three minutes later.

The home side should have taken the lead in the seventeenth minute, spurning two glorious opportunities in the same passage of play. Scott Muirhead sent a delightful ball to Devon Bonne on the left, leaving him one-on-one with John as he cut into the box, but his shot was blocked by the keeper and rolled to Nick Marinos who struck his effort at Tom Uskok who had gotten back to cover the exposed net and was able to clear the ball on the goal-line.

A corner-kick from Craig Sweeney on the right was flicked on beyond the pack at the near post, with Vincent peeling around to gather the ball outside the area on the left and shoot wide from twenty-two yards. The lively Vincent looked to have made a breakthrough for the Knights in the thirty-ninth minute, but a desperate slide from Muirhead saw his shot deflected onto the outside of the post. The game remained locked at 0-0 when half-time arrived, with both coaches demanding improvement in execution after the break.

A counter attack from Sweeney after a turnover saw him run at the Richmond defence requiring



Tempers become frayed between Eagles and Knights players after Josip Franjic was seriously injured and subsequently stretchered off (below) after a challenge by Tim Purcell. Photo: MELINDA CIMERA

a great tackle from Erhan Karahan on the edge of his box to avert the danger in the fiftieth minute. Four minutes later Michael Ferrante slipped in Bonne on the right inside the penalty area but instead of shooting he tried to square the ball to Michael Catalano on the penalty spot who was well-marked and the Knights were able to clear.

Bonne broke through midfield a minute later, passing to Timmy Purcell who in turn found Ferrante wide on the right who's cross to the near post was cut out by a diving John. Four minutes later Bonne was in the action again, hitting the ball into a defender as he tried to centre the ball as the Eagles counter-attacked with a three versus two advantage.

In the sixty-eighth minute the game was marred by a serious injury to Knights substitute Josip Franjic just a minute after coming on to replace Josip Kozic. A late tackle by Purcell in the centre of the park felled Franjic.

sparking a minor melee before the Richmond midfielder was booked. Purcell was replaced by Mate Eterovic not long after play resumed after Franjic was stretchered off.

With ten minutes remaining a strong run beginning in his own half saw Marinos ride two tackles before drawing the last defender and sliding the ball out to Eterovic on the left. Eterovic broke into the box and struck the ball past John and into the net off the inside of the post for his maiden senior goal for the Eagles and what would prove to be the match winner.

Richmond will round out their season with a visit to relegated St Albans on Sunday. With results having gone against them, even a seventh successive win is unlikely to get them into the Top Five. At the same time Knights will host struggling league leaders Hume City before continuing their season in the Mirabella Cup.



Kayne Vincent leaves Ross Antoniadis in his wake as he rips up the dirt with a burst of pace. Photo: MELINDA CIMERA



Tommy Uskok rises high to win the heading duel.
Photo: MELINDA CIMERA

NORTHCOTE CITY

3

BENTLEIGH GREENS

0

Match Details

Northcote City: 1 Charles Treacy, 12 Hayden D'Agostino, 3 Kristian Konstantinidis, 2 Adriano Chiappetta, 11 Harry Kinigopoulos, 7 Jonathan Voulgaris (8 Nicholas Curtis 83'), 10 Glen Trifiro , 23 Jason Trifiro, 19 Dean Piemonte, 18 James Kalifatidis, 9 Trent Rixon (17 Gianni DeNittis 84').

Unused subs: 22 Chris Petropoulos, 5 Nick Tzoulis, 13 Samuel Torrens.

Scorers: Adriano Chiappetta 68' Glen Trifiro 80' Dean Piemonte 83'

Yellow cards: Glen Trifiro, Kristian Konstantinidis, Jonathan Voulgaris.

Red cards: None

Bentleigh Greens: 1 Peter Gavalas, 3 Joey Calderone, 4 Craig Smart (5 Billy Liolios 80'), 6 Michael Gwyther, 10 Scott Bulloch, 11 Alex Rojas, 12 Adam Fadljevic, 14 Aron Wilford, 17 Jack Webster (16 Mackie Simmons 89'), 20 Luke Pilkington, 23 Ryan De Vries

Unused Subs: 41 Luke Gavalas, 2 Curran Ferns, 18 Marcus Carlei

Scorers: None

Yellow cards: Adam Fadljevic, Aron Wilford, Jack Webster.

Red cards: None

Man of the Match: Glen Trifiro

Venue: John Cain Memorial Park

Crowd: 450

Sensational second-half sets up thrilling finale

By Tony Persoglia

A bleak winters day greeted the teams at John Cain Memorial Park on Saturday afternoon, yet the sun shone on Northcote City as it claimed a crucial victory in its bid for a finals berth in the Alanic Victorian Premier League.

Fresh from clinical performances over Springvale White Eagles and the Victorian Training Centre, the Blue-and-Whites notched their third successive win with an impressive second-half display that left the Greens in a precarious position entering the final round of the season.

City were almost at full-strength for the penultimate round, bringing James Kalifatidis, Jason Trifiro and Kristian Konstantinidis into the starting eleven, each rested during the club's humiliation of the VTC. Bentleigh were without their key player Wayne Wallace, but welcomed back Joey Calderone and Craig Smart.

The action began with both teams feeling their way into the match, reluctant to give an inch on the off-chance that they may concede an early goal. Dean Piemonte thrilled the home fans with a corner kick that cannoned into the near post in the 7th minute, the Greens defence clearing the resulting danger.

On 13 minutes, Michael Gwyther cut back a speculative pass across the City goal, Scott Bulloch unlucky not to finish where a great chance beckoned. Barely a minute later, the dangerous Ryan DeVries unleashed a curling right foot strike from just outside the box, his attempt just wide of the mark.

The Greens appeared to gain

Northcote's Adriano Chiappetta stands tall to score with a thunderous header. Photo:ALEKSANDER KOSTADINOSKI

the ascendancy in the midfield at this point, but were exposed in the 22nd minute by a counter attacking move, Jonathan Voulgaris cutting back to Trent Rixon from the right wing only for the City captain to send his shot over the bar from 20 yards.

It was Voulgaris causing the Greens no end of trouble again in the 36th minute, a pulsating right foot drive forcing Peter Gavalas into a reflex save.

The best chance of the first-half fell to the in-form Kalifatidis, who positioned himself well to latch onto a Glen Trifiro thru-ball, rounding Gavalas in the process, yet losing balance as he was just about

to execute a strike for what would have been a certain goal.

Goalless at the break, and the home supporters were clearly restless, illustrating their frustration at any errant pass or loss of possession. The rain arrived to add a new dimension to the contest, and Craig Smart almost took advantage of the greasy conditions in the 62nd minute, his free-kick from 25 yards forcing Charles Treacey into a brilliant save.

But just as the fans feared the contest would meander to a useless draw, City drew first blood with a goal from the towering Adriano Chiappetta, who rose above the Greens

defence to head home a Glen Trifiro corner and give the hosts a crucial lead.

They almost doubled that margin from the kick-off, when after winning possession in their own half, no fewer than three players broke the Greens' line, Glen Trifiro with a mountain of time and space, only to send his shot wide.

Yet, the former Marconi junior got his reward in the 81st minute, with an unlikely near post header from a Dean Piemonte corner that gave Gavalas no chance. The home fans were delirious and sensed an all-important three points were in the bag.

The victory was confirmed

three minutes later when Piemonte, brilliant against his former club, took a shot from all of 30 yards that edged past a gallant Gavalas for City's third goal and a final home win at John Cain Memorial Park.

The Blue-and-Whites will travel to SS Anderson Reserve next Sunday for the final round of the season, knowing that a win will seal a second consecutive finals appearance. Bentleigh have it all to do against Green Gully away from home, where all three points are a must if they stand any chance of a shot at the playoffs.

It was here a minute ago: Northcote's Glen Trifiro and Bentleigh's Scott Bulloch play spot the ball together. Photo: ALEKSANDER KOSTADINOSKI

Adrian Chiappetta leads the blue troops on a merry celebratory maze after breaking the deadlock. Photo: ALEKSANDER KOSTADINOSKI

Monday 1st August 2011

29

HEIDELBERG UNITED



4

ST ALBANS SAINTS



1

Match Details

Heidelberg United:

1. Rhyss Keane - 3. Les Doumbalis, 14. Craig Elvin, 13. Luke Byles, 6. Steve Martin, 7. Hamlet Armenian, 2. Yarred Hailemelkot (5. George Papadopoulos 55'), 11. Evan Christodoulou, 18. Osagie Ederaro, 20. Saso Aleksovski (8. Andrew Nabout 69'), 9. Sean McIlroy (19. Dennis Alilovic 82').

Subs Not Used: 32. Jason Koutsodontis (Gk), 17. Jason Samargis.

Goals: Aleksovski 27', Armenian 36', McIlroy 45', Doumbalis 60'

Yellow Cards: Byles

St Albans:

1. Frano Saric, 21. Ivan Lijovic, 13. Neven Antic, 16. Tomislav Milardovic, 19. Michael Grgic (23. Daniel Dragavic 51'), 15. Louis Fenton, 22. Daniel Piovesan (14. Anthony Themistokleas 59'), 4. Maks Cuze, 5. Stefan Piorkowski (3. Bernard Hostnjak 81'), 10. Daniel Visevic, 9. Mathew Demo.

Subs Not Used: 1. Carlos Galicia (Gk), 7. Michael Kitanovski.

Goal: Visevic 90'

Yellow Cards: Piovesan, Cuze

Player Of The Match: Evan Christodoulou (Heidelberg United)

Crowd: 500
Venue: Olympic Village

'Bergers Prevail Over Plucky Saints

By John Fotinos

Heidelberg United remains on course for a spot in the final five of the Alanic VPL competition after comfortably accounting for St Albans at the Olympic Village on Sunday afternoon.

The 4-1 victory moves it to within a point of fifth-placed Northcote City & three points shy of third-placed Green Gully. However, should it win its game in hand against the lowly VTC midweek, Heidelberg can claim third spot on goal difference ahead of the final round of the VPL next Sunday.

This afternoon's match was played in fine but blustery conditions & saw the visiting St. Albans side have perhaps the better of the first 20 minutes of the match. In perhaps a reflection of their tumultuous season, St. Albans were twice unfortunate not to grab the lead, first denied by the woodwork & then by a wonderful save by Heidelberg 'keeper Rhyss Keane.

Heidelberg took the lead on 27 minutes through Saso Aleksovski, who found space to cut inside the penalty box and slot the ball past Franic. The goal seemed to settle the home nerves somewhat, after having been on the back foot up until this point.

Just 10 minutes later, Armenian made it 2-0 in favour of Heidelberg, crashing home an acrobatic volley after a long throw in had been flicked on by McIlroy. Despite being two goals down, to their credit St. Albans were by no means content to go into damage control mode, and following a series of corners, were again left ruing their misfortune, when for the second time this afternoon were denied a goal due to the woodwork.

The result of the game was effectively sealed on the verge of half-time, when after another Heidelberg throw-in, McIlroy added a third for Heidelberg. The striker held off his marker, controlled the ball & swivelled to deftly lob Franic and land the ball into the back of the net. With a slightly flattering 3-0 half-time lead, Heidelberg almost made it 4-0 immediately upon the resumption of play, but Armenian squandered his opportunity & fired over the bar.

On the hour mark, Heidelberg youngster Leslie Doumbalis notched his maiden senior goal for the club. He manage to ghost into the penalty box unmarked from a dead ball situation, and volley a side foot shot past Franic from 10 metres out to give his team a four goal lead. It was a particularly gratifying moment for Doumbalis, who made a point of acknowledging his proud parents in the grandstand before the restart.

By this point, the match had lost much of its initial intensity, and perhaps symptomatic of this was the relatively poor finishing by the home side, thus depriving it of the opportunity to extend the lead. Christodoulou twice in as many minutes came close to adding a fifth, both times with the goal mouth open. Following this,



Pick that one out: Heidelberg's Sean McIlroy leaves the Saints stranded. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Osagie Ederaro breaks through the Saints defence. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Wax on, Wax off: Saso Aleksovski cops one in the head for his efforts. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

McIlroy spurned a great one on one chance, but managed only to lob the ball over the bar, and just minutes later in almost a carbon copy, Ederaro beat the offside trap, only to see his lob over the 'keeper also sail just over the bar.

St. Albans did manage a late consolation goal on the stroke of full-time, some small reward for their enterprise on the day. Visevic & the tireless Cuze played a neat one-two on the left before the former slotted home past Keane from a narrow angle to leave the final scoreline at 4-1 to Heidelberg over St. Albans.

Heidelberg United take on the VTC this Wednesday (August 3rd)

at 8:30pm at the Olympic Village, before travelling to White Eagles Stadium next Sunday (August 7th) at 3:00pm to face Springvale in the final round of the home & away season. They will be looking to take all 6 points from these games, thus guaranteeing themselves a place in the Finals Series.

St. Albans, already relegated to State League Division 1 in 2012, will round out its season hosting the in-form Richmond outfit, with the game to be played next Sunday (August 7th) at 3:00pm at Churchill Reserve.

In the Under-21's match this afternoon, Heidelberg United 1 defeated St. Albans 0.



Heidelberg congratulate Sash Aleksovski for his goal. Photo: DANIEL FLIS

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Alanic VPL I Round 21



Alanic VPL Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Hume City	23	12	6	5	46	28	42
Oakleigh Cannons	23	13	3	7	40	28	42
Green Gully Cavaliers	23	12	4	7	46	23	40
South Melbourne	23	12	4	7	36	30	40
Northcote City	23	11	5	7	58	34	38
Heidelberg Utd	22	11	7	4	45	21	37
Bentleigh Greens	23	10	6	7	34	29	36
Richmond Eagles	23	11	3	9	33	37	36
Dandenong Thunder	23	12	4	7	42	28	34
Melbourne Knights	23	07	7	9	35	31	28
St Albans Saints	23	03	3	17	26	57	12
Springvale White Eagles	23	02	6	15	21	61	12
VTC Football	23	04	0	19	23	78	12

Alanic VPL Rd 22 - Final Round

Wed 3 Aug 8:30PM N.T.C v Heidel-
berg Utd

Sun 7 Aug 3:00PM St Albans Saints
v Richmond Eagles Churchill Re-
serve

Sun 7 Aug 3:00PM Melbourne
Knights v Hume City Knights Sta-
dium

Sun 7 Aug 3:00PM Oakleigh Can-
nons v Dandenong Thunder Jack
Edwards Reserve

Sun 7 Aug 3:00PM South Mel-
bourne v Northcote City Anderson
Park, Port Melb

Sun 7 Aug 3:00PM Bentleigh
Greens v Green Gully Cavaliers
Kingston Heath

Sun 7 Aug 3:00PM Springvale
White Eagles v Heidelberg Utd
White Eagles Stadium

Under 21s

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pt
South Melbourne	23	15	4	4	47	24	49	
Hume City	23	15	3	5	62	26	48	
Melbourne Knights	23	13	6	4	66	30	45	
Oakleigh Cannons	22	12	5	5	59	33	41	
Green Gully Cavaliers	22	11	5	6	45	29	38	
Northcote City	22	11	3	8	47	34	36	
Heidelberg Utd	21	9	3	9	36	37	30	
VTC Football	21	9	1	11	39	50	28	
Richmond	23	8	3	12	39	61	27	
Dandenong Thunder	23	7	3	13	35	48	24	
Bentleigh Greens	23	6	4	13	41	55	22	
Springvale White Eagles	23	5	1	17	31	83	16	
St Albans Saints	23	2	5	16	25	62	8	

Green Gully Cavaliers 7
Springvale White Eagles 0

Dandenong Thunder 0
South Melbourne 2

Hume City 1
Oakleigh Cannons 0

Richmond 2 Melbourne Knights 2

Northcote City 2 Bentleigh Greens 0

Heidelberg Utd 1 St Albans Saints 0

Men's Metropolitan League & Women's Weekend Scoreboard

Mens Metropolitan League North-West: Keon Park 0 Light
Utd 5, Sunshine Heights Western Tigers FC 2 Tullamarine
Jets 6 (S Adogan 3 C Kara M Nazligul 2), Bundoora Utd
3 (CN Lomini 3) Oak Park SC 1, Keilor Wolves 3 Mitchell
Rangers 2 (S Bishop M Elori), Res: Keon Park 2 Light Utd
6, Sunshine Heights Western Tigers FC 1 Tullamarine Jets 4
(AM Koken M Tankir AKsoy O Kurucu), Bundoora Utd 3 Oak
Park SC 1, Keilor Wolves 2 Mitchell Rangers 1 (A Emond),

Mens Metropolitan League South-East: Dandenong Warriors 5
Endeavour Hills 1, St Kevins 3 Old Haileybury 0, Aston Athletic
Football Club 0 Ringwood City 3, Old Mentonians 3 Parkmore
1, Dandenong Wolves 1 Harrisfield Hurricanes 3 (R Pietrosan-
to 2 A Bucco) Res: Dandenong Warriors 6 Endeavour Hills 0, St
Kevins 3 Old Haileybury 2, Aston Athletic Football Club 1 Ring-
wood City 5, Old Mentonians 2 Parkmore 1, Dandenong Wolves
1 Harrisfield Hurricanes 5 (D Skumbris J Hodges 3 L Dinh)

Mens Metropolitan League Central: Manningham 1 (M An-
tequerra) Yarra Jets 2, Melbourne Lions 5 (S Osman 2 Y
Shefaraf D Molla F Gelaye) Moonee Valley Knights 2, Albert
Park 3 (M Frontz S Johnson E Rau) Altona North 2, Res:
Manningham 2 (G Serragli B Vernes) Yarra Jets 1, Melbourne
Lions 3 Moonee Valley Knights 2, Albert Park 3 Altona North 2,

Womens State League Div 1: Monbulk Rangers SC 3 (E
Hubbert E Doughty M Deober) Albert Park 0, Bayswater
Strikers 0 Brighton 3, Cairnlea 5 (T Hussein 3 D Mutuel
Y Latif) South Yarra 1 (L King), South Springvale 1 Preston
Lions 1 Res: Monbulk Rangers SC 4 (A Gardner D Sands
3) Albert Park 0, Bayswater Strikers 2 Brighton 1, Cairn-
lea 5 South Yarra 1, South Springvale 0 Preston Lions 2

Womens State League Div 2 North-West: North Gee-
long Warriors 1 (D Marincic) Western Suburbs 1,
Keilor Park 5 (KH Nguyen C Gluhak 3 A Ianni) Whittle-
sea Ranges FC 3, Western Eagles 2 Yarra Jets 1,
Keilor Wolves
Mitchell Rangers
Light Utd
Womens State League Div 2 South-East: Morn-
ington 3 Box Hill United Pythagoras SC 0, Ber-
wick City 2 (S Anthony J Cary) Sandringham SC 3

Womens Metropolitan League North-West: West Pres-
ton 1 Mitchell Rangers 0, Fawkner 0 Altona City 0,
Womens Metropolitan League South-East: Bay-
side Argonauts 1 Mornington 3, Casey Com-
ets 15 Keysborough 0, Beaumaris 6 Skye Utd 0
Womens Metropolitan League Central: Elwood City 4
Brunswick Zebras 0, Keilor Park 8 (DA Dargham S Mark-
ovski A Dargham AL Johnson 3 N Dukovska 2) Yarra Jets 0
Womens Metropolitan League East - North East:
Eltham Redback FC 0 Mooroolbark 2 (S Lawley T
Langton), Swinburne University 1, Monash Univer-
sity 3, Deakin Lions FC 1 Boroondara Eagles 2,

Mens Metropolitan League North-West: West Pres-
ton 1 Mitchell Rangers 0, Fawkner 0 Altona City 0,
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Womens Metropolitan League Central: Elwood City 4
Brunswick Zebras 0, Keilor Park 8 (DA Dargham S Mark-
ovski A Dargham AL Johnson 3 N Dukovska 2) Yarra Jets 0

Heights 3, Uni. of Melbourne 2 4 Melbourne University 0

Mens Thirds League Div 4 South-East: Middle Park
FC 6 Ashburton 0, Elwood City 4 Caulfield Cobras
5, Old Melbourne 3 Old Trinity Grammarians 1

Mens Thirds League Div 5 North-
West: Altona Magic 4 West Preston 0,

Mens Thirds League Div 5 South-East: Frankston Pines
6 Old Brighton Grammarians 1, East Bentleigh 4 (M
Lambos 2 C Martini K Sfrantzis) Eltham Redback FC 0

Mens Thirds League Div 6 North-West: Old Xaverians 1
Sunbury Utd 3, Brimbank Stallions 3 Bayside Argonauts 3,

Mens Thirds League Div 6 South-East: Beaumaris 0 Seaford
Utd 5, Skye Utd 2 (D Kullarevic S Virga) Endeavour Utd 2,

Mens Masters North-West: Brimbank Stallions 2 Whittlesea Utd 4

Mens Masters North-East: Ashburton 1 DOC Utd 1,

Mens Masters South-East: Bayside Argonauts 1 North Caulfield 2,
Beaumaris 4 White Star Dandenong 1, Brighton 3 Kingston City 2,

Mens Masters Central: Fitzroy City 4 North-
cote City 2, Middle Park FC 4 Banyule City 0,

Mens Metropolitan League North-West: West Pres-
ton 1 Mitchell Rangers 0, Fawkner 0 Altona City 0,

Mens Metropolitan League South-East: Bay-
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sity 3, Deakin Lions FC 1 Boroondara Eagles 2,

Mens Metropolitan League North-West: West Pres-
ton 1 Mitchell Rangers 0, Fawkner 0 Altona City 0,

Mens Metropolitan League South-East: Bay-
side Argonauts 1 Mornington 3, Casey Com-
ets 15 Keysborough 0, Beaumaris 6 Skye Utd 0

Mens Metropolitan League North-West: West Pres-
ton 1 Mitchell Rangers 0, Fawkner 0 Altona City 0,

Mens Metropolitan League South-East: Bay-
side Argonauts 1 Mornington 3, Casey Com-
ets 15 Keysborough 0, Beaumaris 6 Skye Utd 0

Womens Metropolitan League Central: Elwood City 4
Brunswick Zebras 0, Keilor Park 8 (DA Dargham S Mark-
ovski A Dargham AL Johnson 3 N Dukovska 2) Yarra Jets 0

Womens Metropolitan League East - North East:
Eltham Redback FC 0 Mooroolbark 2 (S Lawley T
Langton), Swinburne University 1, Monash Univer-
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Mens Metropolitan League North-West: West Pres-
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Womens Metropolitan League East - North East:
Eltham Redback FC 0 Mooroolbark 2 (S Lawley T
Langton), Swinburne University 1, Monash Univer-
sity 3, Deakin Lions FC 1 Boroondara Eagles 2,

Womens State League Div 1: Monbulk Rangers SC 3 (E
Hubbert E Doughty M Deober) Albert Park 0, Bayswater
Strikers 0 Brighton 3, Cairnlea 5 (T Hussein 3 D Mutuel
Y Latif) South Yarra 1 (L King), South Springvale 1 Preston
Lions 1 Res: Monbulk Rangers SC 4 (A Gardner D Sands
3) Albert Park 0, Bayswater Strikers 2 Brighton 1, Cairn-
lea 5 South Yarra 1, South Springvale 0 Preston Lions 2

Womens State League Div 2 North-West: North Gee-
long Warriors 1 (D Marincic) Western Suburbs 1,
Keilor Park 5 (KH Nguyen C Gluhak 3 A Ianni) Whittle-
sea Ranges FC 3, Western Eagles 2 Yarra Jets 1,
Keilor Wolves
Mitchell Rangers
Light Utd
Womens State League Div 2 South-East: Morn-
ington 3 Box Hill United Pythagoras SC 0, Ber-
wick City 2 (S Anthony J Cary) Sandringham SC 3

Womens State League Div 3 North-West: West Pres-
ton 1 Mitchell Rangers 0, Fawkner 0 Altona City 0,
Womens State League Div 3 South-East: Mel-
bourne University 2 Scotch Old Boys 3

Mens Thirds League Div 3 North-West: Mel-
bourne University 2 Scotch Old Boys 3

Mens Thirds League Div 3 South-East: Mel-
bourne University 2 Scotch Old Boys 3

Mens Thirds League Div 3 North-West: Mel-
bourne University 2 Scotch Old Boys 3

Mens Thirds League Div 3 South-East: Mel-
bourne University 2 Scotch Old Boys 3

Mens Thirds League Div 3 North-West: Mel-
bourne University 2 Scotch Old Boys 3

Mens Thirds League Div 3 South-East: Mel-
bourne University 2 Scotch Old Boys 3

Mens Thirds League Div 3 North-West: Mel-
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